



## 5 mortars fired at Heathrow airport

LONDON (R) — Five mortars were fired from the back of a vehicle towards London's Heathrow airport on Wednesday. Interior Minister Michael Howard told parliament. Mr. Howard, who interrupted a parliamentary debate on terrorism in Northern Ireland, said that initial reports indicated that there were no casualties or serious damage. Minutes earlier, British police carried out a "controlled explosion" at a hotel near the airport west of London. Petrol station worker Shabir Aziz, 25, said: "There was a big bang from the hotel car park followed by two smaller bangs. There are three cars on fire there now." Mr. Howard told parliament: "I have a sad announcement to make to the house (of commons). In the past hour it appears that five mortars have been fired from the back of a vehicle towards Heathrow airport."

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## King to visit Qatar on March 20

AMMAN (R) — King Hussein will visit Qatar this month for the first time since the 1990-91 Gulf crisis damaged ties between the two countries, officials said on Wednesday.

The two-day visit, starting March 20, is King Hussein's first trip to Doha since the crisis, sparked by Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

It comes at the invitation of Qatar's ruler, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, they said.

The King might also go to Oman from Qatar, they added.

Jordanian-Qatari ties, damaged by Jordan's perceived pro-Baghdad sympathy during the Gulf crisis, have returned to their pre-crisis levels of warmth, officials and diplomats say.

But Amman has so far failed to mend fences with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Qatar and Oman are the only Gulf Arab states that did not break formal ties with Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait. Both countries favour pursuing an independent policy to counter Saudi influence in the region, diplomats say.

## Clinton to meet Rabin Wednesday

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is to meet with President Clinton on March 16 to discuss efforts to restart the Mideast peace process that was sidetracked by last month's massacre in Hebron. The president is looking forward to continuing our close consultations with Israel to help achieve the goal of a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East," White House spokeswoman Dee Myers said in a statement Wednesday. She said there were no plans for Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to visit Washington. After the Feb. 25 massacre, Mr. Clinton invited Israeli and Palestinian negotiators to Washington to keep the peace talks moving forward. But the talks have been on hold in the unrest that has followed the killings.

## Spy case will not damage ties — Yeltsin

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin said on Wednesday that Russia's new entente with Washington would not be damaged by the Aldrich Ames spy scandal. "U.S.-Russian partnership... must exist, and under no circumstances should we lose this great achievement which we reached with such difficulty," Mr. Yeltsin told reporters after laying a wreath on the grave of space pioneer Yuri Gagarin. "And I am convinced that we will not lose it," he said, appearing to be playing down the case of the former head of the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) Soviet counter-intelligence section arrested last month together with his wife and charged with spying for Moscow. Washington retaliated by expelling a Russian diplomat it identified as Moscow's chief intelligence officer in the United States — the first expulsions since the end of the cold war. The Kremlin then expelled a U.S. official.

## Envoy says Cyprus talks on course

NICOSIA (R) — Senior U.N. and U.S. officials said Wednesday that talks on building confidence between the rival Turkish and Greek communities of Cyprus were on course. U.N. representative Gustave Feissel, who conducts proximity talks between the leaders of the two sides, and U.S. State Department special coordinator Robert Lamb met Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash separately. "So far we have been moving along as it was envisaged," Mr. Feissel told reporters.

# Israel, PLO remain deadlocked; Security Council may hold key

Rabin-Arafat phone call fails to lift logjam

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin made no progress in a telephone conversation on resuming peace talks after the Hebron massacre. Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said Wednesday.

"Rabin did not respond on the core of the Hebron issue. He only made procedural suggestions," an Arafat aide told Reuters about the telephone discussion that was held on Tuesday.

The officials said Mr. Rabin's envoy Jacques Neriah, who had been due in Tunis on Wednesday, was cancelling his trip due to Palestinian opposition.

A respected Israeli daily reported that Israel will agree to some of the PLO demands set as conditions for resuming peace talks.

Mr. Rabin phoned Mr. Arafat Tuesday night as part of the efforts to get the peace talks back on track, political sources said. They would not elaborate.

"The Israeli response can instead be fixed."

PLO sources said Mr. Rabin had been advised by several leaders not to meet Mr. Neriah as a sign of protest following the massacre at the Hebron mosque two weeks ago.

Another source said he did not think there would be any PLO decision on resuming

talks until after Mr. Rabin visits Washington next week.

"Furthermore, any decision will have to be taken by the PLO Executive Committee and after consultations with our Arab partners (Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt)," he added.

The PLO officials said that despite U.S. reservations, PLO, Arab and non-aligned groups are seeking U.N. Security Council approval of a resolution condemning the massacre and calling for international protection for Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The Security Council was headed for a vote late on Wednesday on a resolution condemning the massacre.

PLO sources said that during his telephone call with Mr. Arafat, Mr. Rabin said resuming peace talks was the only way out of the present impasse.

They said Mr. Rabin had promised to accelerate the talks in order to achieve Israeli troop withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho area on schedule by April 13, as envisioned in the PLO-Israel peace deal signed in September in Washington.

Mr. Rabin also promised to increase the number of Palestinian policemen for the Palestini-

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## Killer was allowed into Hebron mosque despite conspicuous gear

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — An Israeli inquiry commission retracing killer Baruch Goldstein's steps heard Wednesday that army guards let him enter the Hebron mosque even though he wore a marksman's protective headgear and carried a bag of ammunition.

The major in charge of the guard detail greeted Goldstein at the entrance and asked why he was wearing an army uniform.

"I'm doing reserve duty," the Jewish settler answered, then walked unhindered into the Tomb of the Patriarchs where he opened fire, killing at least 60 kneeling Muslim worshippers.

The new details confirmed earlier testimony by army commanders who said security was lax before the Feb. 25 massacre, with only half the 10 guards on duty.

Hundreds of troops patrolled outside while the five-member commission spent

four hours Wednesday recon-

structing the shooting spree inside the old, fortress-like shrine in Hebron's centre.

The site, holy to both Mus-

lims and Jews, has been closed

since the massacre that dis-

rupted peace talks.

The five-member commis-

sion led by Judge Meir Shamgar began hearings in occupied Jerusalem on Tuesday and heard the army acknowledge it failed to provide adequate security to prevent the killings.

Major-General Danny Yatom, army commander of the West Bank, briefed commis-

sion members inside the tomb along with area commandants and the only officer who was in the area when the massacre took place.

Army spokesman Ram

Ezrach pointed to a firehouse

near the main entrance which

was used to wash bloodstains from the floor. Dozens of sol-

diers and police fanned out

around the tomb and on the

rooftop.

Inside the building the army opened a low and narrow green iron door to let in Mr. Shamgar and the other panelists, the door, known as the flea gate, leads to separate prayer halls for Muslims and Jews.

"Somebody was supposed to stand at the door and make sure the Muslims go to the right and the Jews go to the left," Mr. Ezrach said of the day of the massacre.

The commission met with Hebron's chief Muslim official, Sheikh Saleh Natsheh.

"We are asking you to bring the truth to light for the sake of our two peoples, so they can learn a lesson," Sheikh Natsheh told Mr. Shamgar.

Mr. Natsheh complained to Mr. Shamgar that Israeli au-

thorities had destroyed impor-

tant evidence by cleaning up

the massacre site, including

washing blood-soaked prayer

carpets.

## Hebron settlers confident that they will remain; curfew chokes Palestinians

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Jewish settlers in Hebron were confident on Wednesday their government would never force them out despite a settler's slaughter of dozens of Palestinians at a mosque here 12 days ago.

But the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) still demands it, nearly half of Mr. Rabin's cabinet supports it and Mr. Rabin himself called the settlers' presence an "unnecessary time bomb."

"I don't believe they'll remove the Jews from Hebron. It's a city where for 2,000 years there were Jews," said Yehuda Burman, 36, who studies at a seminary in Hebron each day until nightfall before returning to a nearby settlement.

"I don't think they'll ever kick us out," he added.

"They like to talk about it," said Shani Hobowitz, 38. But she added: "The polls show the Jewish people in Israel do not want to evacuate the Jews from Hebron."

said harbinger Ahed Abn Sineh, cutting the hair of one of five customers who risked the wrath of the soldiers and settlers to reach his shop.

Last year he was working 15 hours a day to keep up with demand. This year only one of the six iron shutters across the storefront is open, the signal that someone is inside.

"Hell is better than this life," said a cousin, Khalil Abu Sineh, 50, a labourer sitting outside. His brother Abdul Rahim was among the Palestinians killed in the massacre.

The Palestinians in Hebron are especially incensed that the Jewish settlers in their midst are allowed to circulate freely, weapons in hand.

"The settlers always point their guns at us. They tell us that they will do to us what already happened in the mosque," said Zeinab Abu Isafan, whose house sits about 10 metres from the Jewish settle-

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His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, other members of the Royal family, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and top-level officials, Tuesday performs the Umra pilgrimage (Petra photo)



Minister Abdul Salam Majali and top-level officials, Tuesday performs the Umra pilgrimage (Petra photo)



## King returns after performing Umra

Officials dismayed over King Fahd's failure to meet him

By Nizarneen Marad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian official reaction differed over His Majesty King Hussein's return from Saudi Arabia at dawn Wednesday without holding an expected meeting with Saudi King Fahd to mend fences after three years of strained ties.

Reactions here varied from resigned pragmatism to anger and disappointment that an opportunity to reconcile Arab ranks after the Gulf war was not made use of.

The King, who was officially reported to be going to Mecca and Medina on the holiest day of Ramadan to perform Umra,

returned to Amman at 2:00 a.m. Wednesday morning.

Officials have been careful not to play up the visit's political value and stressed the King's wish to be at the Prophet's burial place in Medina or Lalet Al Qader — the night when the skies are opened to receive worshippers' prayers.

Privately, however, politicians and analysts had expressed hope that the visit would be an opportunity to break the deadlock in relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia which resulted from the 1990 Gulf crisis.

A well-placed source told

the Jordan Times that King Hussein was aware that his trip to Mecca and Medina was to be a "purely spiritual visit."

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said no political significance or hopes should have been attached to this short trip except that a "psychological barrier" had been removed with the King's insistence on the visit despite continued tension in political relations between him and the Saudi monarch.

"The King's insistence on performing Umra was a duty he felt as a Muslim," the source said, adding that "this was a religious trip and not a political one... there should be

no disappointment."

"A psychological barrier, if one is to think politically, has definitely been removed," the source said, explaining that while King Hussein had previously stayed away from the Islamic holy shrines because of the political situation between the two countries "he was able to break that barrier" with Tuesday's trip.

But the source conceded that had the two kings been able to meet and resolve some of their differences "it would have been perfect."

However, other officials, who also acknowledge that the

(Continued on page 5)

## Rabin visits Marjayoun

MARJAYOUN (AP) —

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin travelled to an occupied border strip in South Lebanon Wednesday to lend support to beleaguered militia allies two days after a deadly resistance attack.

Mr. Rabin met for four hours with General Antoine Lahd, commander of the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia at the SLA barracks in Marjayoun, the largest town in the area Israel occupies as a "security zone" against cross-border guerrilla attacks.

Also attending was the Israeli army's northern commander, Major-General Yitzhak Mordechai, as well as senior officers of the 2,500-strong SLA and the 1,200-member Israeli forces stationed in the area.

Mr. Rabin differentiated between the previous hardline government of Yitzhak Shamir "which wanted to kill every opportunity for peace" and the current one headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that "gave the impression of working for peace," but added Mr. Rabin was not doing enough for peace.

"We are here to express our solidarity with General Lahd and people of the area in view of what happened in recent days," Mr. Rabin, who also doubles as defence minister, told reporters after the closed meeting.

The morale-boosting trip came two days after guerrillas detonated three roadside bombs in the "security zone," killing seven SLA members, including senior officers. Six other SLA soldiers were wounded. Also kidnapped and killed Monday by guerrillas were two civilians, a man and a woman, believed to be pro-SLA.

"We will carry a Syrian message of peace, a message we heard clearly" from Mr. Assad, Mr. Darawshe told a press conference. "We will relay all our impressions to Rabin, to the Knesset (parliament) and to the foreign minister."

On Tuesday, Israel retaliated for the bomb blasts by sending warplanes on a strike against bases of Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas.

## Darawshe carries 'message of peace' from Assad to Israel

DAMASCUS (AP) — An Israeli Arab parliamentarian said Wednesday after a meeting with President Hafez Al Assad that he would convey a Syrian desire for peace to Israeli leaders.

Abdal Wahab Darawshe and the accompanying delegation of prominent Israeli Arab leaders met with Mr. Assad for three hours on their third day in Damascus, the first open visit by Israelis to Syria.

Mr. Darawshe said Mr. Assad differentiates between the group also offered Mr. Assad their condolences on the death of his son, Basel, in a car crash Jan. 21. A presidential statement said Mr. Assad had thanked the delegation for their sympathies.

The visit of the 58-member delegation, which includes two parliamentarians, academics, journalists and other leading Israeli Arabs, came at a sensitive time as the 28-month-old Middle East peace talks.

Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians suspended their participation in the talks in the wake of the Feb. 25 Hebron massacre.

Before the massacre, Mr. Assad held out the possibility of normal relations with Israel. Damascus is demanding the return of the entire Golan Heights, seized by Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, as a precondition for peace.

Mr. Assad's approval for Mr. Darawshe's visit implied that Syria did not want to put an end to the negotiations. He has shown flexibility by speaking to members of the Knesset, to Rabin, to the Knesset (parliament) and to the foreign minister."

## Americans leave Somalia under fire; factions bicker

**MOGADISHU (R)** — Egyptian troops serving with U.N. peacekeeping forces in Somalia covered their U.S. comrades Tuesday as the last major American combat unit waited to leave for home under fire.

U.S. soldiers assembling at the U.N.-controlled airfield scrambled for cover as shots fired by Somalis whistled overhead and Egyptian guards peppered the streets with return fire.

Unconfirmed reports said the gunfire erupted after several Somalis tried to loot a rival gang's vehicle. But U.N. officials blamed it on a disgruntled Somali who had lost a contract with the world body.

The gunfire rose and fell around the airport for over an hour but did not appear to hurt anybody.

Egyptian soldiers based near the city's derelict soap factory, scene of much fighting between U.N. troops and Somali militias last year, were also fired on.

U.N. officers said Pakistani soldiers killed a Somali when they fired shots to disperse a group of people trying to loot a truck belonging to the U.S. contractor Brown and Root which had just had an accident with another vehicle.

Pakistani, Egyptian and other Third World troops will form the bulk of U.N. peacekeeping forces left in Somalia when the United States and its western allies pull out by the end of this month.

On a day when Mogadishu seemed to be as lawless as it was when the Americans first

stormed ashore to save Somalia from famine in December 1992, the U.S. commander praised his troops.

"You leave Somalia having made a difference here," Major-General Thomas Montgomery told 400 soldiers from the "Triple Deuce" unit of the 10th mountain division.

At a farewell ceremony in an airport hangar scarred by old mortar blasts, Gen. Montgomery — who directed much of the fighting against warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed's followers last year — watched as the soldiers unfurled their regimental banners.

Gen. Montgomery said thanks to the soldiers' mission, "Somalis today have a window of opportunity to bring back some order to a destroyed country and hopefully prevent a return to famine."

The troops then moved to nearby Mogadishu port and boarded the Mediterranean Sky ship.

They were joined by 100 medical workers from the 46th combat support hospital, which dealt with dozens of American casualties in the Oct. 3 battle when 18 U.S. soldiers and some 300 Somalis were killed.

The battle led to President Bill Clinton's decision to order out all American troops.

Three years after guerrillas overthrew dictator Mohamed Siad Barre, Somalia still has no government and is in the thrall of warlord factions whose fighting first caused a famine which killed an estimated 300,000 people.

Far removed from the fight-

ing, a leader of one of 12 Somali factions meeting in Cairo said the group hoped to meet their rival Aideed on March 20 to discuss their proposals for setting up an interim government.

The group proposes a 17-member council, including Gen. Aideed, that would set up a provisional government.

But speaking from Nairobi where he has been based since December, Gen. Aideed dismissed the Cairo talks as "unworkable proposals for a puppet government." He called on Egypt to stop what he called its "meddling" in Somali affairs.

Gen. Aideed blasted the Cairo talks as part of an Egyptian plot to make unworkable proposals for a puppet government.

Sudan last month launched a major offensive aid workers said was aimed at cutting rebel supply routes from Uganda and Kenya. Aid agencies and Western nations, including the United States, have accused the government of bombing displaced people in makeshift camps.

The aerial bombardments have also forced several aid agencies to evacuate expatriate workers from various locations.

The United Nations estimates up to some 2.4 million people in the south need emergency food this year. In all, 5.2 million people in the region have been affected by the fighting and will need some form of assistance, the United Nations says.

These unwelcome actions are in clear violation of the reconciliation and peace process already in progress in Somalia," Gen. Aideed said.

## Sudan talks scheduled next week

**NAIROBI (AP)** — Another round of talks to seek an end to a 10-year civil war in Sudan's south that threatens millions with death and starvation is scheduled in Kenya next week.

Presidents of Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Eritrea invited President Omar Hassan Al Bashir of Sudan and leaders of the two main factions of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) to the talks March 17.

The invitation followed a one-day meeting Tuesday in Kenya's capital, Nairobi.

A similar meeting last month failed in the last minute after the Sudanese leader declined to attend reportedly due to Kenya's criticism of a major government offensive.

The PLO is asking for an effective international presence which will be able to protect Palestinians, said Dr. Ahmad Tibi, an Israeli Arab close to Mr. Arafat on peace issues.

The European Union on Tuesday backed such a force, saying in a statement it supports "the establishment in the occupied territories of an international presence in which the European Union declares its willingness to participate."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is demanding an international peacekeeping force to be deployed between the Palestinians in the occupied territories and the settlers. The Americans say the September autonomy agreement spoke only of observers, not an armed force, and only if both sides agreed.

Israel opposes any such force, and Washington supports that stance by blocking attempts to push it through the United Nations Security Council.

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The Algerian Rally for Democratic Women issued an open letter to the head of state: "General Lamine Zeroual, express your fear at seeing 'Algiers slide into chaos' and rejecting any contact between authorities and fundamentalists."

A group of women journalists, actresses and artists held an exhibition of women's works followed by a debate on the theme "What life for the women who give life?"

Until now the United Nations has barred its employees from speaking publicly about the operations. While it helped maintain public neutrality, it

## Key issue stalls peace process — neutral observers

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP)** — During demonstrations Tuesday on the main Arab shopping street in East Jerusalem, U.N. officers ran back and forth trying to slow the barrage of stones and teargas flying between Palestinians and Israeli police.

The border police slammed them around, ultimately arresting translator Mahmoud Rashid after he stepped between a policeman and the teenager he wanted to detain.

"We can't interfere with any military or police operations. The only thing we can do is discuss matters," said Gun-Britt Andersson, the Swedish woman who directs operations for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency on the West Bank.

Watching U.N. observers at the fierce clashes since an Israeli settler massacred 60 Palestinians in Hebron Feb. 25 underscores that they are caught between Israeli troops who basically resent them and Palestinians who expect them to stop anything.

"Try to control your men," a U.N. man said during clashes Saturday in Jerusalem to an Israeli major on the scene. He responded: "I don't want to control my men."

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# Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MARCH 10-11, 1995

## Jordan Times

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## Faulty policy, possible plot

**INITIAL HEARINGS** by the Israeli commission established to look into the Al-Ibrahimi mosque massacre confirm that at least gross negligence on the part of Israeli soldiers had enabled Baruch Goldstein to commit his heinous crime. This means that the Israeli army could have prevented the slaughter but did not due to a "lapse" in security arrangements for the mosque. "Five (soldiers) were missing," Major-General Danny Yatom testified before the five-member inquiry commission Tuesday. "In retrospect," the general went on to say, "my impression is the (theoretical) security plan provided a very good answer if it was executed and could have prevented the massacre."

This disclosure is shocking enough. But what is even more shocking is the hypothesis under which the Israeli occupying army was conducting its security plans. This could be found in Gen. Yatom's remarks to the commission that his forces were "geared towards thwarting attacks by Arabs against Israelis, not vice versa." This dangerous Israeli perspective about security in the occupied territories is exactly what invited disaster. Zealous Jewish settlers, well-known for their hatred and hostility towards Palestinians, have been allowed to carry guns and ammunition even when they enter places of worship and this beats all logic, especially when friction between the two communities, as often reported, could always reach fatal proportions. Dov Stellman, the army officer in charge of the security of the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque, has confirmed to the commission that Israeli police had received no less than dozens of Palestinian complaints against Jews causing trouble for Palestinian worshippers. Yet, the Israeli commanders took no extra precautions and continued to harbour false pretenses that the armed Jewish settlers are under threat and not the unarmed Palestinians.

Whether the absence of appropriate Israeli security arrangements is due to oversleeping by Israeli soldiers, as some Israeli army commanders would have us believe, or to oversleeping by the entire Israeli security apparatus, the fact remains that Israel is responsible for what happened and must be made accountable for it. When only one officer is found on duty, like on that fateful Friday, instead of the six or ten that were supposed to be there guarding the place, the question arises not only about routine negligence reaching preposterous proportions but also about the cause or causes behind this negligence. For one thing, it could be the result of a conspiracy by the army or some soldiers at least. This probability cannot be overlooked by members of the commission. For another thing, it is the policy that had been pursued by the commanders of the Israeli army of suspecting Arabs and not Jews that has to come under careful scrutiny and immediate review. That policy stands already to be condemned.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST IN Al-Dustour demanded that the Ministry of Labour publish the list of measures it said it had taken to end the presence of guest workers in the country. It is not enough that the ministry declare that it was taking measures to help open the way for local workers to get employment and take the place of non-Jordanians, but the ministry ought to publish these measures and take practical steps towards their implementation said Mohammad Daoud. The writer said that employers have to learn about these measures and apply them as they have a national responsibility of employing Jordanian first, said the writer. We often see non-Jordanians employed without work permits at construction sites, stores, gas stations and many other businesses and these are preferred by the employers as they do extra work for the same pay. Most of them live and sleep at their place of work, said the writer. Of course, this practice favours the interests of employers who tend to give guest workers preference over the Jordanian job-seekers, he added. The writer called on the Ministry of Labour to set a minimum wage for workers so that Jordanian job-seekers can choose what suits them as a way of replacing the non-Jordanian workers. He said that by limiting the minimum wages, employers will be forced by law to give the Jordanian workers their wages in full without asking them to do extra work for nothing. The writer said that the Ministry of Labour should see to it that employers do not get away with their violations of the rule, and abide by regulations if it really wishes to serve the Jordanian economy and people.

## What Israel should learn

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoabeh

MANY LESSONS are to be learned from the Hebron massacre, by the Palestinians, by the Arabs, by the Muslims, by the international community (especially those countries which are directly concerned about the peace process in the Middle East), by every human rights group and every caring human being in the world, and (most importantly) by Israel itself. In what follows, I wish to focus on some of the lessons that Israel must learn and act upon.

The Al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre is not the first chilling atrocity committed against helpless Palestinian civilians. Inevitably, it is part and parcel of the long series of acts of violence carried out willfully and systematically by all kinds of Israeli terrorist groups and by the Israeli army. But its timing is different. The despicably tragic act comes at a time when the Arabs and Israelis have finally started to do the right thing (i.e. sit down and negotiate matters face to face) and when the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel have signed what has been hailed by many as an "historic" agreement and a true "breakthrough." The murderer (or murderers as the case most probably is) knew exactly what he was doing: in addition to shedding the blood and wasting the lives of those innocent victims and initiating a new campaign of terror throughout the occupied territories, he must have aimed to disrupt and sabotage the peace process and thus prolong the cycle of violence and suffering of both the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. Baruch Goldstein is a well-thought-out, well-executed strategic act with many purposes to mind.

Clearly, we blame Goldstein and his possible accomplices for the crime. But we also blame Israel (directly and indirectly) almost equally.

Certainly, not all Israelis are like the likes of Goldstein. We understand and highly appreciate the words and deeds of many Israelis and Jews who, since the beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict, but especially in the more recent years, have been not only sympathetic to the Palestinian cause but in many ways supportive. The Israelis who went out into the streets in the aftermath of the massacre to protest and condemn it reflect an important dimension of such sympathy and support. And we also appreciate, to a certain extent, Israel's official condemnation of the atrocity, though we expect it to do much more.

But we blame Israel for not doing its share, since the launching of the current peace process, in clearing up the air among its own citizens and those of the future Palestinian state and the neighbouring Arab countries and in facilitating peace. Until now, Israel thinks and behaves like a country which is still at war with its neighbouring Arab states and like a ruthless occupier. What has it done to show that it is a peace maker? Very little, too little indeed.

In fact, through its repressive and oppressive policies, through the unjustifiable practices of its army and through the extremely dangerous and provocative presence of the fully armed and utterly irresponsible settlers in the West Bank and Gaza, Israel has been contributing actively to the escalation of violence in the occupied territories. One wonders if Israel truly wants peace. All it has succeeded in doing, since Sept. 13, is to haggle Palestinian negotiators over petty little things, to procrastinate and to break promises and crucial deadlines. The Hebron massacre and the daily slaughter of Palestinian children and young people at the bands of the Israeli army come as a tragic reminder of Israel's failure to live up to the expectation and challenge of being a peacemaker. Peace is not rhetoric; it is attitude, temperament, psychology and daily acts and practices. Israel has been thinking defiance, arrogance and war for so long that one is sceptical of its ability to contribute to stability and peace in the region.

By contrast, the Arab side has done a lot since Madrid. The PLO, for example, has not only revoked its charter, renounced all acts of violence against Israel and opened its arms fully to Israel (it is indeed noteworthy that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat extended his hand first to what became a historic handshake at the glamourous White House peace

ceremony) but has also immensely restructured (even destructured) itself to be as flexible and accommodating in the peace process as possible.

Many in fact believe that the PLO has compromised so much that its whole being and existence is at stake and that it has changed itself so much (many speak of it as a "ghost" organisation) that it is presently at the brink of disintegration and disaster — all for the sake of peace. Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon have also gone out of their way to try to make peace with Israel. The only inflexible, intransigent and violent party in the Middle East at this point is Israel.

We also blame Israel, equally significantly, for its deep-rooted exclusivist Zionist ideology and for its extremely chauvinistic and exaggerated sense of its Jewishness.

Zionism, as an ideology and as practiced in the daily lives of many Israeli (intellectuals, politicians, businessmen, common people, etc.) is still flagrantly racist. Such racism is reflected not only inside the very body of Israel itself (in the relationship between the so-called Western and Eastern Jews, the white and black Israelis, etc.) but also, more importantly and tragically, in the relationship between Israel and its Arab inhabitants, those who have the Israeli citizenship and those who live under occupation. Their rights and lives are continually violated and trampled upon. The reason is obvious: Zionism, being the racist ideology it is, views the Israeli and

"The fact that the United Nations has cancelled its previous decision to condemn Zionism as a racist ideology is meant to stress not that Israel is non-racist, but to encourage it not to be racist. As far as we can tell, Israel has hardly done anything to improve its racist image."

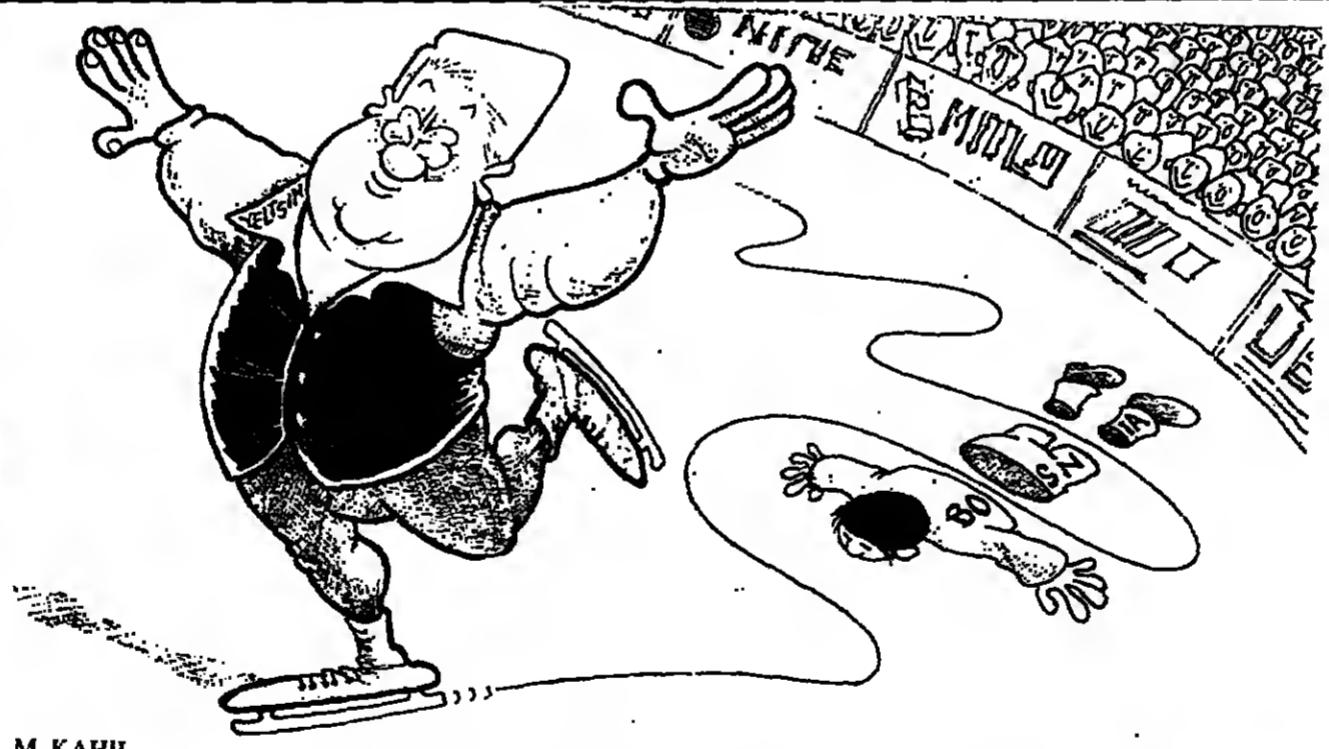
the Jew as remarkably superior to the Palestinian and the Arab. Such ideology is unfortunate not just because it is degrading and erroneous but also, and this is what concerns us here, because it directly contributes to instability and violence — for once you view the "other" as inferior, as Israel does, then you give yourself the privilege of committing all kinds of injustices against this "other."

The fact that the United Nations has cancelled its previous decision to condemn Zionism as a racist ideology is meant to stress not that Israel is in fact nonracist, but to encourage it not to be racist. As far as we can tell, Israel has hardly done anything to improve its racist image.

As for Israel's Jewishness, we Arabs (Muslims and Christians alike) have no trouble with it. We recognise Judaism as a heavenly religion, and we recognise the rights of the Jews to worship peacefully and freely. We believe in Abraham, Jacob, Isaac, Israel, Joseph, Moses, David and Solomon. Simultaneously, however, we believe in our right (Muslims and Christians) to pray and worship peacefully and freely. Unfortunately, many orthodox and non-orthodox Jews (with the encouragement of the Israeli Government) seem to have no respect whatsoever to such right. They seem to think that all of the holy lands belong to them. This is not only selfish but also, as the Goldstein terrorist act has shown, extremely dangerous and unacceptable. What has Israel done, what is it planning to do, by way of insuring respect and protection for Muslim and Christian worshippers?

Israel has a lot to learn and a lot to do to demonstrate to us, to the world, and to itself and to convince us, the world and itself that it truly wants peace.

The writer is professor of American Literature at Yarmouk University.



By Anthony Lewis

LONDON — "The road to any solution in Bosnia now runs through Moscow." A senior diplomat in London thus summed up the dramatically changed landscape faced by Western governments trying to design an end to the Bosnian conflict.

When Russia intervened recently offering a hand to the Serbs, it became an essential player in the diplomatic game, with Boris Yeltsin personally involved. That sharply limits what the United States and the Europeans can do on their own. But it also offers an urgent opportunity for Russian-American action.

An example of the new restraints on the West is the outlook for further NATO air strike threats, like the one that helped move Serbian guns back from Sarajevo. Their purpose might be to end the Serbian shelling of other Bosnian government enclaves, to reopen the Tuza airport or to stop military flights from Serbia and Croatia.

But now that Russia is involved, can such NATO air

action be a serious possibility? NATO members are highly unlikely to want to risk an even more dangerous conflict. And threats that will not be carried out are worse than useless.

The irony is that, in the events of the last two weeks, the Serbs have ended up winners. The Bosnian government hoped that it was finally getting a protective arm from NATO, but the symbolic protection that Russia has extended to the Serbs is more meaningful.

Diplomats have hoped that Bosnian Serb leaders would give up enough land to link the government territories. But how can the Serbs be persuaded to do that if Russia is effectively protecting them from Western pressure? The answer can now probably lie only in agreement between the Yeltsin government and the West. And "the West" really means the United States, because Bosnia has shown again how dependent the Europeans are on U.S. leadership.

It is a strange situation. Here is a Russian state in desperate economic and political trouble, its president unable to prevent a grant of amnesty to men who tried to

overthrow him. Yet that Russia is in a position to help shape, or block, any resolution of the Bosnian conflict.

If there is to be a peace

that has a chance of holding,

Washington and Moscow

have to agree broadly on the terms.

No Bosnian state would be

stable, or its borders peaceful,

if some of its territory

consisted of islands sur-

rounded by hostile Serbian forces.

Such a joint demarcation is

the one opportunity, and it is

a serious one. In the past,

Russian diplomats have been

cooperative and well in-

formed on the Bosnian situa-

tion. President Yeltsin's call

for a Moscow conference on

Bosnia, which has drawn a

lukewarm Western response,

might in fact have possibili-

ties. The risk is that domestic

political pressure on Mr.

Yeltsin — from the rise of

Slav nationalism — may now

make him lean too far to-

wards the Serbs. But Presi-

dent Bill Clinton would have

some leverage to produce a

modestly decent result for the

Bosnian victims.

Sanctions on Serbia are a

powerful lever.

The New York Times

## Oslo accord calls for early discussion of settlements

By Michael Jansen

The Arabs, and in particular the PLO, are about to lose by default their campaign for early discussion of the illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and the threat these settlements pose to the security of the indigenous Palestinian population. This is because the Arabs and the PLO have not read the Oslo agreement which stipulates in the article entitled "Transitional period and permanent status negotiations" (paragraph 2): "Permanent status negotiations will commence as soon as possible, but not later than the beginning of the third year of the interim period..." (paragraph 3). It is understood that these negotiations shall cover... Jerusalem, regrettably, settlements..."

Although these paragraphs occur in Article V which deals with the transitional period, there is nothing in that article which relegates discussion of any of the permanent status items until after the transitional period begins. If that had been the intention of the two sides this would have been explicit in the text. Therefore, the Arabs and the PLO can demand immediate and urgent negotiations on settlements and the other items listed as "permanent status" issues without changing one comma in the Oslo accord. Indeed, the PLO and the Arabs can rely on the accord to make such a demand.

Israel has misinterpreted this very explicit paragraph as meaning that negotiations on permanent status will not begin before "the beginning of the third year of the interim period." And have used this misinterpretation to justify their refusal to discuss settlements at this critical juncture. And instead of referring to

this misinterpretation and demanding urgent discussion on the basis of what is actually written in the Oslo accord to which Israel is bound by its signature, Palestinian politicians in the PLO and outside have demanded "renegotiation" of the accord or that an exception be made for negotiations on settlements. Such "renegotiation" or excepting is not necessary. All the Arabs and the PLO need do is demand urgent consideration of settlements because of the security threat they pose, consideration

"(T)he Arabs and the PLO can demand immediate and urgent negotiations on settlements ... without changing one comma in the Oslo accord."

which would be in implementation of the terms of the Oslo accord.

The Israeli misinterpretation has fooled only the Arabs, the PLO and the international community but also the extremist settlers in the occupied territories. They continue to act as arrogantly and violently towards the Palestinian inhabitants of the territories as before the signing of the accord in the belief that the Israeli government will not act against them or decide their fate before two to five years after the beginning of the transitional period of self-rule for the Palestinians. And they could be right if the world, the Arabs and the PLO continue to ignore the terms of the Oslo accord and allow Israel's misinterpretation to stand.

## Mexican rebels wary of government efforts

By Edmundo Kraglund  
Reuter

SAN MIGUEL, Mexico — Maya Indian rebels who took up arms in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas appear weary of the promises made by government envoys last week during peace talks aimed at quelling the uprising.

Reporters who were this week scheduled to accompany rebel leaders into Maya communities to watch the Indians debate the proposals were told the trip would be delayed as Zapatista guerrillas were still debating the promises among themselves.

The committees (which direct the Zapatista movement) have convened and are still analysing the federal government's response to the Zapatistas' demands. The Zapatista National Liberation Army told the reporters in a communiqué.

The guerrillas have outlined a broad list of demands, ranging from free and fair national elections to more hospitals and better services for Indian communities and more respect for Mexico's indigenous people.

"They always make promises that they don't fulfil," said one of the guerrillas in San Miguel, a town on the edge of the rebel-held Lacandon jungle.

"We don't want to be cheated again. That's why we're not turning them in," the guerrilla told Reuters.

The Mexican government says 145 people were killed in early January after some 2,000 Zapatistas descended from their highland strongholds and seized around a dozen chiapas towns.

The rebels would not tell reporters which elements in the government's response were causing difficulties.

But the rebels had previously hinted it would not be easy to resolve the conflict, contradicting some of the

Maya languages.

# Weekender

March 10, 1994 A

Published Every Thursday

## RCC undergoes a revolutionary change

By Mohammad Mashqash

Until recently, the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) has catered to the needs of the elite of the foreign community in Jordan who enjoyed its cultural and artistic activities along with a few Jordanians whose attendance was merely meant to re-assert their fine social status.

Following the birth of democracy and its openness which started in 1989, a revolutionary change took place in the RCC, affecting social life in Jordan.

The centre developed into a cultural production unit after having served for years as an arena for displaying shades of culture. It is crystallising pioneering ideas and rearing them until they flourish and spread across the country.

Take for instance the National Ballet Troupe, set up by the RCC, which faced strong criticism from conservatives. The RCC also embraced the Amman Orchestra Players Group, the Oriental Culture Group and the Energetic Young Theatre Group.

Indeed, the RCC's management is democratically-oriented, supporting the ideas of pluralism, says Iyad Qattan, the centre's liberal-minded and highly-cultured director. In his view democracy in culture implies opening the door to all talented and creative-minded citizens to project their potentials and skills at the RCC where the audience can be the judge of their work.

Certain intellectuals, who believe art is for the elite, only level criticism at the RCC management for opening its doors before all Jordanian artists without discrimination of interference, says Qattan. "We do not assume the role of critics or judges appreciating what is being presented, nor do we leave the arena for the benefit of a tiny group of artists or intellectuals to control the process of assessing the performances and impose their own views and tastes on others."

Reflecting the RCC's democracy and cultural strategy, Qattan says: "Tens of plastic artists, theatre-lovers and playwrights, as well as numerous charity organisations and even housewives have benefited by the RCC's almost free

services.

"It is to be noted that some artists and literary men who are well-known today had made their debut at the RCC," adds Qattan.

Among those famous people were the so-called "Ajras" (Bells) poetry group who introduced fine and well-known poets (like Ali Al Amiri and Basel Rafa'i) to the Jordanian community, said Qattan.

Qattan thinks the RCC is capable of adopting various other creative works — a potential which other public and private forums lack.

But he says the RCC's significance far exceeds the role of paving the way for cultural or artistic initiatives because it also serves as an arena for intellectuals to hold dialogues on various subjects and ideologies, including those that have been banned in Jordan.

He says the RCC has also responsibility to enhance democratic behaviour and political pluralism in the country, as well as promote respect for other views, co-existence of ideologies and other related missions because this is part of the cultural task entrusted to it.

### AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

During the current holy month of Ramadan, the RCC initiated an activity called "Okaz Cultural Forum" during which it hosted such activities as poetry reading, plays, paintings and lectures.

Mohammad Awad, supervisor of the RCC's cultural affairs, says that the Okaz idea was derived from the ancient Arab heritage. In the old days people used to gather in the markets not only for trade but also for open sessions of literary criticism.

"At the RCC, we have tried to propagate and spread an atmosphere of joy for the people of Amman, a city reeling under the heavy weight of concerns and daily worries and pressures, and have created an open forum for the Jordanian artists to achieve that goal," notes Awad.

The Forum hosted two plays, two festivals one for poetry

and another for oriental music, and a book exhibition.

"We had wished to see the forum develop into some sort of a Ramadan open festival for all kinds of art and creative work as well as intellectual debates, but financial and administrative constraints rendered this idea inapplicable," he adds.

Despite its independent decisions in matters related to culture and art, the RCC is formally affiliated to and abides by the rules and regulations set by the Ministry of Culture and therefore the RCC must adhere to the administrative and financial regulations and the ministry's budget earmarked for cultural activities.

This amounts to less than JD1 million annually, spent mostly on building facilities and staff salaries. Allocations are made also for publishing four modest cultural periodicals with poor contents and circulation.

This policy has deprived the country of meaningful national theatre work and failed to support successful classical or Oriental music groups.

The financial constraint facing the ministry and the RCC has prompted intellectuals, artists and businessmen to call for comprehensive cultural development programmes and invited artists and others to setting up private theatres and galleries.

Qattan is, however, opposed to the private sector controlling culture because he says their work is being executed for sheer profit and so financial means is the decisive element in determining the quality of production and the kind of groups which benefit from the cultural and artistic activities.

"At present, my main concern is to set up semi-RCC centres in the governorates and I have already submitted proposals to implement this idea to the concerned authorities," says Qattan. "One can not discuss a comprehensive cultural development in the country without laying the basic infrastructure, like creating halls, management, equipment and related technical requirements."

He says these are basic elements to achieve a real distribution of culture throughout the country and not to leave Amman with the lion's share.

## From loneliness to dreams — a high school for immigrants

By Dorian Benkoff  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Teenagers in bleje jeans, sneakers and sweatshirts grab books from their orange-painted metal lockers and dash off to class. Others playfully slap and shove, and chase each other down the hallway.

The mix of faces, skin colours and body sizes — and the horseplay — could be seen at almost any New York City public school. But stop and listen, and you'll find out why this school is special.

Janey Shek and David Wong, both 18-year-old Hong Kong natives, are chatting in Cantonese about how to lay out an upcoming Chinese-English Club bulletin. Other students converse in Arabic, Portuguese or Thai.

Every student, it seems, has at least some difficulty with English.

And no wonder. The International High School admits only those who have lived in America fewer than four years and who scored in the lowest 20 per cent on an English proficiency test.

The school's students, from 60 countries, speak 42 languages.

Around the corner from Janey and David, students scream in their various tones.

gues as they swing from the gymnasium's ceiling during a rope-climbing lesson.

When Derek Fimiarz, a 16-year-old Polish boy, jokes to a compatriot about the girl whose safety rope he's holding, the girl hollers nervously from four metres overhead: "I'm trying my life depends on you."

Sara Siddiqui, 14, of Bangladesh has picked up some Polish, she says, by being around Fimiarz and his three Polish buddies this trimester. They're all part of a group of 24 students who are spending the term together.

In physics lab, too, they support each other. One boy from Ecuador translates for a friend from Nicaragua. Srinivath and Vireesamay Vanivilay, sisters from Laos aged 16 and 14, respectively, shyly giggle, and struggle to answer questions. They have been in New York only five months.

Each group of 23 or 24 students is a mix of ages, grade levels and skills. For a trimester they take three or four classes that are grouped under a theme,

dents has at least two who speak the same native tongue — or the nearest possible equivalent. The students learn English from each other as much as from teachers and remedial classes.

"The only way to acquire language is to use it. If the teacher is doing all of the talking, the teacher is getting all of the practice," says principal Eric Nadelstern in his basement office.

The students' dreams are as diverse as they are. Sara Siddiqui, her dark eyes shining, smiles and says she plans to be the first from the school to Harvard.

Qing Chen, 19, stands idly strumming his leather jacket and off-handedly says he's not sure he'll become an American citizen. "China is developing so fast" and he wants to go wherever he "can make money," he says.

Each group of 23 or 24 students is a mix of ages, grade levels and skills. For a trimester they take three or four classes that are grouped under a theme,

such as "structures," "American dream" or "motion." The idea is to have a unifying thread so vocabulary and concepts learned in one class can be reinforced in the next.

Motion students, for example, might read science fiction stories in English, do physics experiments in science and learn rope climbing in physical education.

Central and South Americans make up about 38 per cent of the school's 470 pupils. Students from Asia make up the second-largest group at about 20 per cent. The number of Eastern Europeans, now near 20 per cent, is expected to rise, especially from Bosnia.

As recent immigrants, students' adolescent difficulties are often compounded. Many complain of loneliness. "They leave their families. They leave their friends and everything they knew," says Betty Frank, 25, a physics teacher and herself an immigrant from India.

The school's three guidance counselors help with visas, with getting proof of age from war-torn countries, with how to survive with one or both parents still overseas.

More than 90 per cent of the students get credits from LaGuardia Community College, with which the school shares a campus.

Every year more than 90 per cent of International High School graduates go on to college.

An air of optimism pervades the school's near-spotsless hallways. There are no metal detectors to scan for hidden guns or knives. Colourful student art dots the walls. A magazine rack holds student bulletins in Arabic, Russian, Chinese, Spanish and more.

The school, in the Borough of Queens, feels more intimate than typical New York high schools, which have as many as 4,000 students. To stretch funds, the school budgets for teachers rather than administration. It also saves money by sharing facilities and staff with the college, and it receives financial grants.

"It used to take three generations before members of a particular family could fully participate in the American dream," says Nadelstern, the principal. "The challenge before us now is to collapse all of that into a single generation."

Many teachers seem motivated to give more of their time to students than required by contract. They participate in administrative decisions such as whom to hire and how to use the budget.

A second International High School opened in Manhattan's Chinatown last September with 75 students, and a third is planned for the Borough of Brooklyn next autumn.

The International High School... Queens opened in 1983 with 56 students.

On a recent Monday, Marjan Makatan, an alumna of the school's first graduating class in 1989, stopped by. Before she joined the school, she and her mother fled Iran after convincing immigration authorities they were Muslim by wearing chadors and reciting parts of the Koran.

Now a graduate of Brandeis University, Makatan says she is applying to medical school.

"It used to take three generations before members of a particular family could fully participate in the American dream," says Nadelstern, the principal. "The challenge before us now is to collapse all of that into a single generation."

## Once portrayed as western problem, drug trade booms in Russia

By Andrei Khalip  
Reuter

MOSCOW — The deaf-mute outside Moscow's crowded Byelorussky Railway Station who raises his fingers to his lips in a "V" might simply be asking for a cigarette.

But those familiar with Moscow underground life know the real meaning.

The station, packed day and night with commuters, long-distance travellers, beggars and invalids, is a centre of Moscow's flourishing drugs trade. Its small group of mutes are among the biggest dealers.

"Marijuana, opium, hashish — they have anything you need to get stoned. Prices are high, but the stuff is always available," said Alexei, a 20-year-old Moscow University student.

Drugs were strictly forbidden in the Soviet era, when they were described in official propaganda as a scourge of the capitalist

West. Now they are recognised as a problem in Russia.

Officials counted 53,000 drug-related crimes in Russia in 1993, up from 29,000 in 1992 and 16,000 in 1985.

"Addiction disappears under totalitarian rule," said Arkady Kuznetsov, head of the Interior Ministry's Anti-Drugs Department.

"Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini annihilated drug-taking by sending all drug dealers to jail. Now it is everywhere."

Mr. Kuznetsov said the scale of drug abuse in Russia could not be compared to that in the West but it was a serious problem.

"It's no wonder. Around one million hectares (2.47 million acres) of land in Russia are covered with wild cannabis, and one hectare (2.47 acres) yields around one tonne of hashish. The calculations are very simple," he said.

Almost half the cannabis and opium available in

Moscow comes from the former Soviet republics of Georgia, Ukraine, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan.

Mr. Kuznetsov said Russia was the only country in the world where consumption of drugs — as opposed to selling them — was not a criminal offence. President Boris Yeltsin lifted a ban on drug consumption in 1991.

A poll published two years ago by the Education Ministry showed 1.5 million of Russia's 150 million population were taking drugs.

"I do not believe these figures too much," Mr. Kuznetsov said. "Two years ago people were too afraid of saying they had ever tried the stuff. Besides, the number of addicts has grown considerably over two years," he added.

"Moscow has become quite a cool place. Everything you ever heard about is on sale here — LSD, crack, heroin and even magic mushrooms," said

Dmitry, 26, a bearded painter.

Opium is sold in straw form which can be boiled in acetone to create a heroin-like substance which users inject.

"Russia has always been a special country and it has specialities in the field of drug production," said Mr. Kuznetsov. "The most dangerous are synthetic drugs, like Trimethylfentanyl, a synthetic heroin."

He said many Russian chemists, unemployed or struggling to survive on 30,000 roubles (\$20) per month, were involved in underground production of synthetic drugs to make ends meet. "Many of them have bright brains, so they use them."

Synthetic heroin is called "glass" in street slang, because one of its chemical components is used in armoured glass.

Mr. Kuznetsov said only two countries — the United States and Russia — were producing this "second generation" drug.

"If you don't have enough money you stick to dirty syringes and boil opium straws in acetone like those hippies do. I prefer getting high once in a while cocaine or crack. It

costs a lot but it's worth it," said one music producer.

Official crackdowns focus on two annual military-style operations to hunt for fields and illicit pharmacies and laboratories.

"They are mostly pop stars, people in the arts and businessmen. They have plenty of dough but nothing to do (so they) just look for some new entertainment," said Mr. Kuznetsov.

Mafia-like criminal gangs run the lucrative business of drug distribution. They are well organised and often outgun demoralised Interior Ministry troops.

They charge high prices. A gram of Colombian cocaine may cost up to \$500, well above the New York price, which Mr. Kuznetsov put at between \$30 and \$40. Few Russians can afford it.

"If you don't have enough money you stick to dirty syringes and boil opium straws in acetone like those hippies do. I prefer getting high once in a while cocaine or crack. It

## BOOK REVIEWS

### Impressive 'Conspectus'

**Bahrain Through The Ages: The History**  
Edited by Shaikh Abdullah Ibn Khalid Al Khalifa and Michael Rice  
Kegan Paul International, London 1993, £95

This expensive volume, which is the companion of Bahrain Through The Ages: The Archaeology, comprises papers delivered at the historical conference convened by the Bahraini government in 1983 to mark the 20th anniversary of the arrival of Bahrain of the ruling family, Al Khalifa, and its supporters.

Given the rapid progress of current research into the history of the Gulf and the astonishing fact that this publication took ten years to produce, it is hardly surprising that some papers are now out of date — a fact particularly aggravating to those contributors who were given no chance to revise their work. Several other papers are already familiar, having appeared in the journal of Bahrain's Centre of Documentation, Al Wathiqah.

More regrettably, this book bears out the notion that academic work can never be wholly valid where censorship, no matter how reluctant and discreet, is exercised. Several authorities on Gulf history were judged unsuitable to participate in the conference; and, as the Bahraini minister of information, Tariq Al Mu'ayyad, admits in his introduction, those who did participate were asked "to avoid material... which represented seriously contested views on recent political history". One important paper — by Dr. Hopwood of St. Antony's College, Oxford — was axed in toto because it offended certain individuals in Saudi Arabia.

And yet, despite all the odds, this work has managed to emerge as an impressive-looking volume containing several interesting papers by leading scholars. Proclaimed by the publisher as "a conspectus of current scholarship on the State's history", topics range from Gulf navigation, postal services and Anglo-American rivalry to the role of the Portuguese, commerce and coinage and mediaeval trade relations with Iraq. Two notable papers by Dr. B.J. Slot of the Dutch State Archives in The Hague and Penelope Tuson of the India Office Records in London, point to promising areas for future research within their own archives.

Particularly welcome are papers by two members of the Khalifa family — Khalid Khalifa Al Khalifa and Shaikh Abdulla Al Khalid Al Khalifa. Their participation in the conference and interest in the publication of its proceedings, together with the completion of Bahrain's superb National Museum in 1988, highlight the emirate's appreciation of the importance and sheer enjoyment of exploring the region's rich history from the pre-Islamic era through the time of the Prophet, the Islamic empires and the British period to the present day — Middle East International.

Alan Rush

### Strangers in their own land

**The Arab Minority in Israel, 1967-1991: Political Aspects**

By Jacob M. Landau  
Clarendon Press, Oxford, England 1993, £27.50

An Israeli Arab once remarked that "being an Arab in Israel means feeling that one is a stranger in one's own country". Arabs, comprising nearly 20 per cent of Israel's population, lived under military administration until 1966. Today, they still face economic discrimination, land expropriations and neglect by government. Yet, although they remain second-class citizens, Arab subjects of Israel have made economic and political gains which outstrip the achievements of many of their brethren in Arab countries.

Landau's study of the

## Dial-a-letter

By Jean-Claude Elias

The Fax-Modem is an often neglected computer device. Considering its relatively low cost, its ease of use and small size, one might ask why isn't it a standard item on all personal computers (PC) and has rather been classified as a luxury option.

What can a Fax-Modem do for you? It is in fact two devices in one — you might have guessed — a fax and a Modem. On regular size, desk top PCs, it usually comes as a small electronic board that plugs inside one of the computer's empty slots. It can also be an external box that connects through the computer's serial or parallel ports, or a pocket-size box one can use with notebooks computers.

A standard telephone wire with regular plugs goes from the Fax-Modem inside the PC to the telephone line. The connection is a one minute operation and doesn't take a technician or a specialist to do, provided of course, your supplier did give you the right wire and plugs.

The Fax part is extremely simple to operate. Most of the new models have an intuitive menu-style operation, easy to follow. Some versions work from within the Windows environment making it even easier to all familiar with the mouse operation. Once the system set, you can type a text with a word processing programme, dial a fax number on the computer keyboard and transmit the text to your correspondent. You can also transmit drawings or graphs created with your PC, in a similar way.

The quality of computer transmitted faxes is much superior to those transmitted from an ordinary, dedicated fax machine. It honours the original Latin name, "fac simile," which means "exact copy." This is because the PC transmits document, whether text or image, is sent directly from the computer, in a digital format, and doesn't have to be scanned by the fax machine. The scanning in a fax machine is similar to photocopying and can introduce blurs, distortion and unwanted black stripes.

Naturally the PC fax can also receive faxes. These can be visualised on the screen or printed out on hard copy. Both outgoing and incoming messages are stored on the hard disk of the computer in the form of files.

The trade-off (PC fax versus dedicated fax machine) is that you cannot send a document you already have on hard

## chip talk



copy — a letter, a commercial brochure, a personal photograph, etc... For this you would need a PC scanner which would make the whole operation more expensive and certainly more complicated.

The Modem, an acronym for Modulator-DEModulator, works differently. It is used to transmit and receive computer data that is not necessarily in a fax format. You can communicate with your correspondent, even have a dialogue, send (upload) programmes, receive (download) programmes. Via Modems, computers that are thousand of miles apart can work as if in the same room, sharing data, files instantly.

Though processing slightly different data formats, both the PC fax and the Modem are based on the same data transmission principle over regular telephone lines. If shopping for such a device, make sure it can handle high speed transmission rates. The rate is expressed in Baud (from the French inventor of the code, J.M.E. Baudot), or pulses per second. 1200 bauds is slow, 4800 average and 9600 bauds is fast. There are higher rates, but they are not supported on all telephone networks.

Though higher baud rate will save your money by cutting your telephone bill, lower baud rates will ensure perfect transmission and will avoid errors and dropouts. A reasonable compromise is the 4800 baud rate.

With market prices ranging from JD150 to JD300 for consumer models, the Fax-Modem should become standard equipment on PCs and not remain an expensive option. Especially since local authorities, at first reluctant, have allowed the product in Jordan.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### AMAZING FACTS

- Some species of bamboo, a giant perennial grass, bloom only once every 120 years.
- More than 90 per cent of flowers have either an unpleasant odour or none at all.
- A "curtain lecture" is a private scolding received by a husband from his wife.
- The capsicum hot pepper is the hottest of all spices.
- Theodore Roosevelt was the only president of the United States who was not sworn in on a Bible.

### LET'S LEARN ARABIC

- Trust me! *Saddikni!*
- Don't do that again. *La taf'al zalek marratan thaniya.*
- Don't disappoint me, sweetly. *La tokhayyebi zanni ya habebati.*
- I'll tell you all about it. *Sa'okhbiraka bikollishay.*
- You'll have a nice gift. *Satashol ala badiya latifa.*
- You'll pay dearly for that. *Satadfa al-thaman galliyah.*
- Won't you have something to drink. *Ala tareed ann tashrab shay'an.*
- I wish you would come with us. *Awaddo ann ta'ti ma'ana.*
- I'd rather stay at home. *Offaddit al-bakaa fil bayt.*
- We'll always remember your kindness. *Sawsa natazzakkar da'iman ma'rufak.*
- I can't believe it. *La osaddik zalek.*
- Can you give me a hand? *Hal yomkinoka musa'adati.*
- I can't imagine that. *La yomkinoni ann atasawwar zalek.*

### YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

**CONFERENCE:** A business or professional conference predicts profitable news; a political conference indicates increasing responsibilities; a spiritual or religious conference augurs a rise in social status.

**DRUMS:** To hear drums in your dream forecasts great success and to play them yourself signifies great joy.

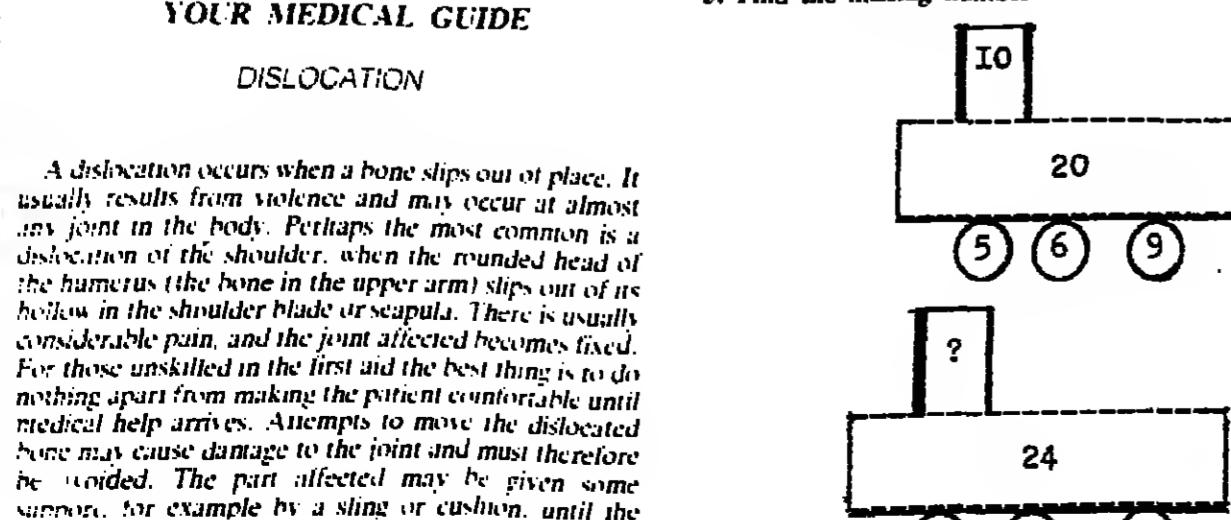
**INHERITANCE:** Receiving one in a dream is usually a straightforward prediction of a legacy to come.

**GATE:** You may be buffeted by your current difficulties, but you will eventually emerge unbroken.

### YOUR MEDICAL GUIDE

#### DISLOCATION

A dislocation occurs when a bone slips out of place. It usually results from violence and may occur at almost any joint in the body. Perhaps the most common is a dislocation of the shoulder, when the rounded head of the humerus (the bone in the upper arm) slips out of its socket in the shoulder blade or scapula. There is usually considerable pain, and the joint affected becomes fixed. For those unskilled in the first aid the best thing is to do nothing apart from making the patient comfortable until medical help arrives. Attempts to move the dislocated bone may cause damage to the joint and must therefore be avoided. The part affected may be given some support, for example by a sling or cushion, until the



## Being a housewife during Ramadan

By E. Yaghi

"Really, Ramadan is beautiful," sighed Abla on her first day of fasting. She was all energy and though slightly hungry, determined to begin this holy month with an all out effort at making her first "Iftar" or breakfast, something special. Well as she knew, preparing meals three times a day for eleven months out of the year is somewhat different from preparing the first meal to break the fast in Ramadan. Abla hadn't really meant that first meal to be extravagant, but she did mean to make up for her occasional lax in cooking because of her occupation. Yet, she hadn't counted on the day being so short or her task being so mammoth. She had wasted precious moments and suddenly, it was four o'clock.

She frantically spied one of her sons speeding past the kitchen and cried, "Ob, help me please," trying to gain sympathy and then threatening, "or you won't eat on time!"

To her surprise, she had spoken the magic word and suddenly, that son who never entered the kitchen except to eat, zoomed in to help. "What shall I do, Mom?"

"I'm going to stuff this sauted meat with onion into the circles of rolled out dough. You must fry them."

Just then, another son sped past and she hollered, "hey, if you want to eat on time, come and help us!"

Again, this worked like magic and a second son began to help her roll out the dough as she stuffed it. The first son, filled a frying pan with oil and soon began to place the stuffed pastries into the boiling substance. Soon, the whole kitchen filled with smoke while the three worked frantically to finish before the call of the muazzen. Meanwhile, son number three fought his way into the eating ball through the mist of smoke, steam and inviting aroma to ask what everyone was doing and could he help. Abla declared: "You certainly can. Hurry and make the ice tea because we're going to be late!"

So the kitchen witnessed the small mob, pushing past each other and almost tripping over each other in their battle against time. At last, they finished their cooking and triumphantly spread the table with the fried pastries, stuffed zucchini and eggplant and a hot soup, plus some dates and ice tea.

With the call to prayer, all eagerly delved into eating the meal and no one noticed that the fried pastries were not quite done except for the father who said in a rather gruff tone: "Don't you think they taste too much like dough?"

Abla replied: "Maybe a little but no one really noticed. We were all too hungry, but next time, we'll try to start earlier."

The first day passed safely enough but by the time three weeks had passed, fasting became much more difficult than at first and no one was as enthusiastic. Abla found herself more forgetful than usual and that the normal chores became more tedious and taxing than before, such as those giant jeans that her sons constantly wore, which were harder than cowhide and the span of two metres, and a mountain of ironing piled up to the ceiling and always a son who anxiously said: "Hi, Mom, can you iron my pants and shirt please, please, please?" When three of them asked the same question in a row, she found herself passing at least an hour just ironing for her sons.

And there was always, whether Ramadan or not, the forever query of: "Mom, where's my socks?"

Of course Abla knew without a doubt that either her washing machine ate a sock or two every laundry day or else, there was an international conspiracy against paired socks, or else there must be some sort of invisible alien that sneaks into the laundry and steals socks and throws them into a black hole in space.

Towards the end of Ramadan, she found herself pretty exhausted what with getting up at four in the morning and remaining awake, fasting, her occupation and rushing home at one to prepare the day's meal. It was all quite a load even though spiritually rewarding.

At times however, Abla seemed to almost sleepwalk at work and she grew bags under her eyes, not from fasting alone, but because of all her work and lack of sleep. However, her growing sons retained their energy and voracious appetites. But the good thing was that they frequently checked the kitchen cooking chores to ensure that their mother would have their meal on time. If not, they always pitched in to help, contrary to the other 11 months of the year when kitchen duty was something to be abhorred and avoided.

In a few more days, Abla, her family and the rest of fasting Jordanians will celebrate the Eid. It will be a welcome relief from long tiresome preparations for the "Iftar," and there would be no more waking up at 3:30 every morning for sahour. But still she must get ready for the holiday because her first visitors on the Eid morning arrive before 7 a.m. expecting hot coffee and a welcome reception.

May all those who celebrate the Eid have a very happy holiday!

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, March 10

8:30 *The End Of A Brave Man*

9:30 *Flesh And Blood*

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *Faces And Places*

11:50 Feature Film — *The Old Gringo*



he gets a job offer in California, she in Washington.

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 Feature Film — *Topaz*

Starring: John Vernon and Dany Robin

An Alfred Hitchcock movie about the Russian KGB succeeding in penetrating NATO, and providing Cuba with nuclear weapons.

Friday, March 11

8:30 *The End Of A Brave Man*

9:30 *Walter And Emily*

Zak gets a taste of French culture at home and Walter goes back to work to save money to buy Emily a new diamond ring.

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 Feature Film — *Vice Versa*

10:30 *Playing By The Book*

Dr. Steve exposes a medicine company for marketing an untested drug, which causes death in the hospital. The doctor who administers it gets into trouble too.

11:50 Scene Of The Crime

Devil Music

Two beautiful bodies end up in a big aquarium. Both deaths are the result of a promised marriage — proposal that was never kept.

Saturday, March 12

8:30 *You Bet Your Life*

The interesting quiz show where the winning couple gets the show's grand prize of \$10,000.

9:10 Documentary — *Out Of The Past*

8:30 *Family Matters*

Stake-out

A comprehensive look at the two great civilisations in Latin America — The Aztec and the Inca.

Sunday, March 13

8:30 *You Bet Your Life*

The interesting quiz show where the winning couple gets the show's grand prize of \$10,000.

9:10 Documentary — *Out Of The Past*

Realms

9:10 *ThirtySomething*

California

Waste Water

A documentary about waste, and the danger it poses to the environment when it misbehave.

8:30 *The Respected Family*

Seduction is the theme of this episode — and Victoria's daughter Elizabeth, and sister Ruth, are the objects.

9:10 *Wild Jack*

Starring: David Carradine

Jack, who lives in the wilderness goes to the city to help his friend's daughter, who is being used and exploited for the money she is going to inherit.

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *The Cape Rebel*

11:10 *Open All Hours*

Wednesday, March 16

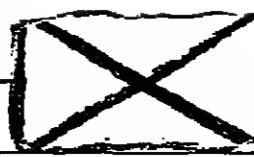
8:30 *Too Close For Comfort*

Henry loses his cosmic cow doll.

9:10 *Environment: Pollution*

California

A documentary about waste, and the danger it poses to the environment when it misbehave.



## 5 impressive films in Best Picture Oscar race

**By Bob Thomas**  
The Associated Press  
**LOS ANGELES** — The unmistakable groundswell for Schindler's List is overshadowing the fact that the Academy Award race for Best Picture contains five impressive films with serious themes.

Consider the subject matter of the nominees — the holocaust, a miscarriage of British justice, subjugation of women in an earlier time, a servant's blind devotion to an unworthy master, and a vengeful pursuit of an innocent man.

A look at the films in contention for Best Picture of 1993:



Holly Hunter stars in Jane Campion's film *The Piano*



A court scene from the film *In The Name Of The Father*. (From left) Mark Sheppard, Carole Richardson, John Lynch and Daniel Day-Lewis

Ford, saw the film's potential.

"I can't say I ever saw an episode of *The Fugitive* all the way through," Ford said in an interview. "Of course, I'm familiar with it like anyone else."

"I look for things I like and have an emotional relationship to, something that moves me. I think then I'm prepared to help move the audience. I look for something that has ambition, has a degree of originality and that is challenging to me as an actor."

### In The Name Of The Father

In 1975, Irish drifter Gerry Conlon, his father and other relatives and friends were convicted of an Irish Republican Army (IRA) bombing they had no connection with. It took 15 years before a tenacious lawyer exposed police lying and the prisoners were released.

The miscarriage of justice resulted in Conlon's autobiography, which Irish filmmaker Jim Sheridan saw as movie material. He had been looking for a story about a son and a good father, observing there are very few good fathers in Irish literature.

"It's not a political film in the usual sense of the word," Sheridan has said. "One thing it's definitely not is anti-British. I love the English and think they're



Harrison Ford in *The Fugitive*

great people — you can't touch them for loyalty or independence of spirit.

"I hope one of the points of the film is obvious to English viewers — namely that one of the great tragedies of the IRA bombings is that the English have allowed themselves to inflict such terrible damage on their legal system. And I don't think it's anti-English of me to point that out."

*The Piano*

New Zealand-born Jane Campion won nominations for writing and directing this film. One other woman has been a directorial nominee (Lina Wertmüller for *Seven Beauties* in 1978), but no woman ever had been nominated for director of a film that also was nominated as best picture.

In *The Piano*, Holly Hunter stars as a Scotswoman who comes to colonial New Zealand for an arranged marriage. What is unusual, Miss Campion says, is that she didn't need such stars as Hunter, Sam Neill and Harvey Keitel in order to finance the film.

"The money came from a French company (Ciby 2000) which operates on a kind of Medici principle," she said. "They were supporting without any approvals — the approvals were all with the filmmaker. The

only limitation was the budget, which was about \$7 million... At the time, it was not thought to be a big audience film."

Rave reviews, critics' awards and the Cannes Film Festival prize helped make *The Piano* a box-office winner, grossing more than \$32 million so far in a limited U.S. release.

### The Remains Of The Day

The story of an English butler's unquestioning loyalty to his rich, politically naive master seems like unpromising material for a major film, but this movie has again proved the rare talent of James Ivory and Ismail Merchant for turning literary works into successful films.

For 30 years, Merchant and Ivory, with their writing partner Ruth Prawer Jhabvala, have turned out such polished gems as *Maurice*, *A Room With A View* and *Howards End*.

*The Remains Of The Day* centres on a businesslike butler (Anthony Hopkins) who remains steadfast, despite attempts by his employer (James Fox) to influence English officialdom to appease Hitler.

Director Ivory commented in an interview that major studios had long feared "that the public



Steven Spielberg (sitting) with the stars of the film *Schindler's List*: (From left) Ralph Fiennes, Ben Kingsley and Liam Neeson

wouldn't be interested in serious adaptations of novels set in the past, or even in the present. That has been disproved."

Added producer Merchant: "People are becoming more and more aware that good material or an artistic film has the chance of making enormous amounts of money."

### Schindler's List

Already Hollywood's big-

gest hitmaker, Steven Spielberg marked a banner year in 1993. His *Jurassic Park* began its climb to the top of all-time moneymakers and, with *Schindler's List*, he at last won recognition as a filmmaker of serious quality.

Spielberg long had been fascinated by the story of Oskar Schindler, a German who profited from Hitler's invasion of Poland, then saved more than 1,100 Jews from certain death. The director had read Thomas

Keneally's book at the time of "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial," but other projects intervened.

"*Schindler's List* was something I never thought would happen," Spielberg said after winning the Golden Globe for Best Dramatic Picture. "It came into my life 11 years ago, and it just sort of went through the '80s as I was still making Indiana Jones films. *Schindler's List* was always there waiting for me. I wasn't ready for it."



Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson in a scene from the movie *The Remains Of The Day*

## Selling fantasies in China

**By Andrew Browne**  
Reuter

**SHANGHAI** — It's not the blue-eyed cover girls or the seductive perfume ads that catch the eye in *Elle* magazine's Chinese edition but the fact that it is sold on newsstands at all.

For *Elle* is one of just two Western magazine ventures in China, the other is *Mickey Mouse*.

A French fashion glossy and an American cartoon comic book are all that Western publishers have to show for years of trying to invest directly in the world's largest single media market. Barring a sudden collapse of Chinese communism, Dior advertisements and Disney characters are likely to keep the market virtually to themselves.

"Many things in China are changing, but the ideological situation is not changing," said Luo Zhao-tian, editor-in-chief of *Elle's* mainland Chinese edition.

"It's very difficult — practically impossible — to set up a joint-venture newspaper or periodical."

Rupert Murdoch, the Australian-born international media magnate, was reminded of that when he tried to muscle in on the Chinese publishing scene last year. His plans to add a Shanghai lifestyle magazine called *Better Life* to his stable were slapped down by Beijing.

Only a handful of Asian publishers have had better luck, among them Hong Kong newspaper group



For most Chinese readers, *Elle* is a showcase for a style of life that is still pure fantasy

Fashion pure and simple is a formula that has worked well for *Elle* in Asia, where there are also local language editions in Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea.

In most markets it is a formula that guarantees profits, but not in China, where *Elle* has never made money and doesn't expect to for some time.

At 12 renminbi (about \$1.50), *Elle* is by far the most expensive magazine on local newsstands, and it is picky about its advertisers. Only top brand names are accepted. But income still cannot cover production and distribution costs.

Circulation is a meagre 130,000, with about 25 per

cent in Guangzhou and Beijing and the rest scattered thinly in 200 cities all over China, making distribution a nightmare.

For most Chinese readers, *Elle* is a showcase for a style of life that is still pure fantasy. A survey last year showed that the average reader earned a monthly 300-600 renminbi (\$35-70); less than a bottle of Christian Dior's Poison perfume. Still, Mr. Guerin insists he will not take the magazine downmarket to boost sales.

"We're an image magazine," he said. "We're not interested in selling 10 million copies of *Elle* in China tomorrow. We want *Elle* to remain *Elle*."

## Bosnian cellist plays for peace

**By Clar Ni Chonghaile**  
Reuter

**MADRID** — Vedran Smajlovic's voice trembled with emotion as he described life in Sarajevo where he has daily defied shells and sniper fire to play his cello in the ravaged streets.

"It is very important that you know. It is minus 25 degrees Celsius (-13 Fahrenheit). People are hungry, they have no electricity, they have no gas. It's hell," he said.

The 38-year-old Smajlovic, Bosnia's most famous cellist who is currently touring Europe, has become a poignant symbol of a fierce determination to preserve some good in life even in the midst of war.

Smajlovic has played in Rome, London, Paris and Spain.

Sitting on the steps of Barcelona's gothic cathedral, he played Albinoni's Adagio — a piece he has adopted as his musical cry for peace.

He was invited by the organisers of the Music For Peace campaign which since last March has attracted more than 1,000 musicians to Spain's northerly Catalonia region to play the Adagio.

"I try all the time to say with my music: 'Stop the bloodshed' because at the end of the 20th century, in my town alone, more than 12,000 have been killed, more than 2,000 children have died and over 60,000 people have been injured."

Smajlovic was born in central Sarajevo. His

mother was Croatian, his father Muslim. His wife's mother is Serbian, her father Croatian.

"Within a 50-metre (50-yard) radius of my house, there was an Orthodox Church, a Jewish synagogue and a mosque. I never thought about nationality," he told Reuters.

Before the war broke out in April 1992, there were three orchestras in Sarajevo and Smajlovic played with the National Theatre's Opera Orchestra. The orchestras have since merged as members have died or disappeared.

The festival is very important, it's our weapon. We have nothing else, no other weapons," Smajlovic said.

He blames extremist Serbs and Montenegrins for the killing. "It isn't war. It's a massacre of civilians."

**Sitting on the steps of Barcelona's gothic cathedral, Smajlovic played Albinoni's Adagio — a piece he has adopted as his musical cry for peace.**

They saw what could happen. Maybe I was stupid. I never thought it could happen," Smajlovic said.

Rehearsals take place at the local television station which means a six-kilometre trek for most of the musicians who then have to practise without electricity.

In spite of the relentless killing, Smajlovic refuses to lose hope, saying the generosity of the people enables him to travel Europe — he has no income of his own.

He recalls the day Serb mortars smashed into a bread queue in central Sarajevo, killing at least 20 people.

"It was really very difficult and very dangerous to get out. But just as God made bad people, he made

very human people as well who got me out. Don't ask me how. I don't want to talk about it," he said.

His original idea was to play just once, as a lament for the dead, but friends convinced him to continue and so began his personal defiance of indiscriminate death.

"Of course it is very crazy but when all the town is fire and shells, it doesn't matter if you are in a room, or in a cellar or on the street because the shells are so heavy. It is just a question of God," he said.

He remembers the time when a man fleeing yet another fierce bombardment stopped — transfixed by his playing. "For one minute, he forgot the shells," Smajlovic said proudly.

On the first anniversary of the war in April last year, Smajlovic put on what he and tails, sat in the ruins of the town hall and played Bach.

His cellist by a shell hole, donations helped him buy a chair which he uses to try to the eyes of the world.

"As you see, my English cello it is easier," he laughed.

In Madrid, Smajlovic appeared on National Television, tears coursing down his face as he rehearsed the mournful Adagio.

"I am an optimist because it must stop. How I really don't know. I have just music and with music I must open eyes."

## Brain study reveals roots of personality

By Steve Connor

**THE FIRST** hard evidence that genes may play a bigger role than nurture in forming human personality emerged at the weekend.

Scientists who studied brain-wave patterns in babies a few months old found that fussy babies who fidget and are 'hard to soothe' are likely to become shy and withdrawn children with behavioural problems in later life.

The controversial research into the genetic basis of childhood behaviour was presented at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington.

**SAN FRANCISCO.** It shows that children with a certain pattern of electrical activity in the brain are significantly more prone to becoming shy and introverted. A parallel study demonstrates that genes play a role in deciding which type of personality a child will have.

Nathan Fox, professor of human development at the University of Maryland at College Park, said babies with a high state of electrical activity on the right frontal lobe of the brain are more likely to be shy and introverted than babies with stronger brain-wave patterns on the left frontal lobe. "We are now able to predict, based on an infant's behaviour and the phys-

iological activity of his brain, which child is likely to be shy and withdrawn at the age of two," he said. "Our studies go up to the age of seven and we feel confident we've identified a physiological pattern that reflects activity on different sides of the brain which are markers or fingerprints for personality."

The research involved testing 400 children with tapes of recorded speech, moving mobiles and cotton swabs dipped in alcohol to see their reactions. About 30 per cent became unduly aroused and fearful, and this group tended to have electrical excitability in the right side of their brains.

Other researchers who studied temperaments in 700 pairs of twins found the first hard evidence that aspects of personality have a genetic component, according to Hill Gold-

smith, professor of psychology at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

"Our genes seem to account for about half the variability we see in temperament."

He said, however, that upbringing can override a genetic tendency. "It's a fallacy to believe that anything with a genetic input is not modifiable."

Jerome Kagan, professor of psychology at Harvard University, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, said the value of researching into the genetics of personality is that a "sizeable burden of guilt" can be lifted from parents who feel it may be their fault if a child is overly shy and introverted. He said the human brain has at

least 150 different chemicals, such as neurotransmitters and natural opiates.

"They determine the firing patterns that make a child a little more active, or a little less active; a little more anxious or a little less anxious."

Differences between people should come as no surprise because although everyone has these 150 chemicals "we inherit them in different concentrations — a million different tomato soups", he said. "That is why there is a large number of different temperaments — some rare, some common — and this is a new area of research. It is just beginning." — Independent.

## Cats said to carry bacteria that can infect owners

Both antibiotics and flea control are useful in stopping the infection from spreading to humans. The infections do not appear to harm the cats themselves.

The author of the study said it should not be interpreted as a call for people to get rid of cats.

"I certainly don't advocate getting rid of cats. For the elderly and many others it's their only link to the world," said Dr. Koehler. "I'd suggest that people wash their hands after handling them and wash any scratches or bites immediately with soap and water."

"I hope there isn't an overreaction," said Fred Scott, a veterinarian at the Feline Centre at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. What has changed, he said, "is the increase in the number of immunosuppressed people" who are more susceptible to an array of diseases.

Because the number of people with suppressed immune systems is increasing, "it is probable that the reported incidence of Rochalimaea-associated human disease will increase substantially," wrote Dr. Jane Koehler in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The researchers noted that cats and other pets are often recommended as companions to people with AIDS and the elderly.

Americans own 57 million felines, or about one for every three households.

Blood samples taken from 61 cats in the San Francisco area found that 25 — or 41 per cent — carried the bacteria.

Others include Bacillary Angiomatosis, which causes lesions on the skin, bones and some organs, and cat-scratch fever, which has flu-like symptoms and causes lymph nodes near the scratch to become swollen and painful.

## 'Nicotine reaches foetuses of mothers exposed to secondhand smoke'

By Malcolm Ritter

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK.** Scientists found chemical evidence that nicotine can reach a nonsmoking pregnant woman's fetus if she is routinely exposed to secondhand smoke.

The evidence turned up in hair samples from newborns, suggesting long-term exposure to nicotine and other potentially harmful components of tobacco smoke, said researcher Dr. Gideon Koren.

The study didn't investigate whether the exposure affected the babies' health. But previous research suggests children of women exposed to secondhand smoke two to three hours a day while pregnant might have an increased risk of subtle problems with speech, language, intelligence and attention span.

Prior research also shows that when a pregnant woman smokes during pregnancy, risks to a fetus include low birthweight, prematurity and possible long-term effects on mental development. Dr. Koren and his co-authors said in the latest issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association (AMA).

Dr. Koren, a professor of pediatrics, pharmacology and medicine at the University of Toronto, spoke in an interview before presenting his results at an AMA news briefing.

Dr. Neal Benowitz of the University of California, San Francisco, said the

study's result was convincing but not surprising.

"It's really unclear what it means, if anything, in terms of babies' health," said Dr. Benowitz, who wasn't involved in the study and also researches the effects of nicotine.

Dr. Koren said he suspected secondhand smoke may harm fetal health only if combined with other risk factors like an inadequate oxygen supply. Carbon monoxide from smoke may itself reduce the supply of

oxygen to foetuses, he said.

The study included babies of 36 mothers who smoked, 23 nonsmoking mothers who said they were regularly exposed to secondhand smoke and 35 nonsmoking mothers who reported no regular exposure to secondhand smoke.

Using hair samples from the newborns, researchers looked both for nicotine and cotinine, which the body creates from nicotine. Because nicotine is eliminated quickly from the body,

the longer-lasting cotinine is the more reliable indicator of extent of exposure to smoke, researchers said.

For infants of women exposed to secondhand smoke, levels of cotinine were about twice those found for infants of non-exposed mothers. They were also about one-fourth the levels found for infants of smoking mothers.

Infants of non-exposed mothers showed some cotinine because of small amounts of nicotine in foods, Dr. Koren said.

## Scientist hunting gay gene downplays worries of test

**SAN FRANCISCO (R).** — The U.S. government scientist who discovered a possible genetic basis for homosexuality have played down concerns that his research could lead to prenatal testing for homosexuality.

"There will never be a

test that will tell if someone's going to be gay, and we know that for a scientific fact," Dean Hamer, a scientist with the National Cancer Institute, told reporters at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Hamer and his colleagues published a study last July in which they linked instances of male homosexuality to a small stretch of DNA on the X chromosome. They are currently engaged in a second round of broader tests.

While some gay rights advocates applauded word of the possibility that sexual orientation could be genetic, others worried that any discovery of a "gay gene" could lead to pre-natal testing for sexual orientation — and to parents aborting children they know might be

gay.

But Dr. Hamer said he would prevent such testing because if his team discovered the gene they would keep the property rights.

But he was quickly forced to retreat from that position.

"You can't copyright a gene," Daniel Kevles, a professor at the California Institute of Technology, said.

Dr. Hamer also agreed that ultimately, the choice of whether to take a hypothetical test to determine a foetus's sexual orientation would be up to the child's mother — a scenario that was dramatised earlier this year in the Broadway play *Twilight Of*

*The Golds*, by Jonathan Tolins.

Dr. Kevles cautioned that the media has overreacted to Dr. Hamer's initial reports, and said that history shows society should be sceptical about biological explanations for human behaviour.

He said California and other states, earlier in the century, championed sterilising some people based on a belief that feeble-mindedness was the basis for aberrant moral values.

He also evoked the spectre of the Nazis' eugenics programme.

"The hands-down winners were the Nazis, who... sterilised several hundreds of thousands of people," Dr. Kevles said.

## Study: AZT limits AIDS infection in newborns

**NEW YORK (R).** — A federally financed study has found that the drug AZT dramatically reduced the transmission of the AIDS virus from infected mothers to their newborns, the New York Times has reported.

Quoting government health officials, the daily said the findings were considered so significant that the study was ordered stopped, and the 59 U.S. and French medical centres that participated were being told to offer AZT to the pregnant women who had been receiving placebo.

Dr. Harold Jaffe, an epidemiologist and the top scientist on the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) at the government's Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta told the Times the study is "the first indication that mother-to-child transmission of HIV can be at least decreased, if not prevented."

The newspaper said that about 4 million women give birth each year in the United States, and health officials estimate that 6,000 to 7,000 of the women are infected with the AIDS virus, HIV. About 1,500 to 2,000 of their children later become HIV infected. Transmission to newborns is a much bigger health problem in Africa, Asia and South America where infection rates among childbearing women overall can reach 10-to-30 per cent in some areas, the paper said, quoting another official of the CDC.

He added that in some areas of the United States, including some urban areas in the northeast, the comparable figure is as high as five per cent.

The double-blind study involved 477 HIV-infected women at 50 medical centres in the United States and nine in France who enrolled during their 14th to 34th week of pregnancy.

The women agreed to receive AZT or placebo pills during pregnancy and labour.

Each newborn then received AZT in a syrup for six weeks, the paper said.

**SOLUTION**

### CHECK YOUR I.Q.

(1) A SPORTSMAN would be thinking of a bay horse, or of the barking of dogs, or of the branch of a stag's horn; a COOK of bay leaves used as a flavouring; a GEOGRAPHER of an indentation of the coast; and a BUILDER of a bay window.

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(2) The hour hand would be pointing to your right, and the position of the hands would seem to show three o'clock; but the position of the figures would be reversed as well, and the hour hand would still be pointing to nine. GUM and NOON would not appear as MUG and NOON, but as GRIN and NOON.

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(3) The missing number is: 12.

### DEFINITIONS

By Olive Dunn

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# Features

By John Rettie

ONE DAY in January, Rajesh broke a tradition that has ruled his village for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years. He slapped Azad, a man of higher caste, who had stolen some pean from his field.

By immutable Hindu custom "Untouchables" such as Rajesh are not allowed to share a meal with those of higher caste, pray in a temple or use their well for fear of polluting them — never mind touch, far less hit, them.

No matter that Azad himself was a Kurmi, one of the Other Backward Castes (OBCs) as official jargon has it, who are despised by Brahmins and other high-caste Hindus.

He in his turn despises Harijans (Children of God), as Mahatma Gandhi dubbed Untouchables. However, they have now rejected this name as patronising and prefer to be called Dalits — the Oppressed.

The outrage committed by Rajesh in the village of Dauria, in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, had to be punished.

His middle-aged mother, Shivpati, was stripped and paraded through the village at gunpoint for an hour. No one tried to stop this.

She was lucky. She was not killed, raped or beaten — merely horribly humiliated in a society whose sexual mores are intensely conservative.

Others have been less fortunate. Since the coalition between OBCs, Dalits and Muslims took power in Uttar Pradesh nearly two months ago, dozens of men, women and children — the majority of them Dalits — have been killed, raped, beaten or had their burns burned down in caste clashes.

With a population of nearly 150 million, about 17 per cent of India's total and far more than any other state, Uttar Pradesh's fate is crucial to India. The defeat of the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) sent shock waves through the country. It had ruled for two years until dismissed by Delhi after Hindu zealots tore down the Ayodhya mosque 15 months ago, and was confident of returning to power.

And just because the new government is a coalition of OBCs, represented by the Samajwadi Party (SP), and Dalits in their Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), any violent clashes at grassroots level are watched closely by sympathisers and opponents alike.

The defeated BJP, together with its many sympathisers in the Hindi-language press, is desperate to stir up trouble in the hope of smashing the coalition. It has also called for presidential rule to be reim-

posed because, in the words of the party's state president, Kalraj Mishra: "Uttar Pradesh is sheer lawlessness."

But the Calcutta Telegraph pointed out that the figures for major crimes in the same period two years ago, when the BJP ran the state, were if anything slightly higher.

Other commentators have noted that pro-BJP newspapers often ignore more frequent clashes between Dalits and high castes, because they do not divide the coalition.

This violence has been widely described as a "caste war". It is no such thing, but merely a continuation of the age-old oppression of Dalits by everyone else. "Largely a one-way war," observed the Telegraph.

What is new is the success of Dalits in exercising their votes to secure a share of power in their own right.

In several states they have hitched a ride with other parties. In neighbouring Bihar it was the leftwing Janata Dal led by the chief minister, Laloo Prasad Yadav. In the old days it used to be the ruling Congress Party, and in a few places it still is. But the Dalits have grown increasingly disillusioned with Congress and, in Uttar Pradesh, the Janata Dal.

As the most downtrodden in society, they have often been forced to stay at home while their vote was used by higher castes. But last November the formidable chief election commissioner, TN Seshan, ensured that Uttar Pradesh's Dalits could cast their own votes. All over India politicians are now wondering how to attract the Dalit vote.

But it will be a long time before they feel the benefit of that vote in the villages, where three out of every four Indians live. More often than not they are forced to live on the outskirts of their village. The poorest and least educated, they do the dirtiest and most menial jobs.

Their leader in Uttar Pradesh, Kanshi Ram, has no programme and refuses to discuss one. "Just give us the power and the rest will fall into place," he declares, as he stumps the length and breadth of India in an effort to repeat the triumph in the state.

Originating with the Aryan invasions, so most scholars believe, early castes represented the four main occupations in society: Brahmins (priests), Kshatriyas (warriors), Vaishyas (creators of wealth) and Shudras (labourers). This aimed at an efficient division of labour.

Over the centuries these four groups were divided and subdivided into occupations and professions which became hereditary, hierarchical and even, the Brahmins pro-



India's 'backward' castes no longer prepared to sit on the scrap heap (File photo)

## The awakening of the oppressed India's 'Untouchables' flex their political muscles

laimed, divinely ordered — so entrenching their position at the top.

There are said to be as many as 1,000 castes and sub-castes, often with different statuses in different regions. Even the Dalits sub-caste and the upper Dalits often despise the lower, and may even vote BJP.

At the village level many OBCs, particularly the Kurmis, are landowners, analogous to Kulaks, who have no intention of allowing competition from landless Dalits.

Indeed, Kutnus from all political parties and many states recently held a rally in Patna, capital of Bihar, to boost their caste's upward mobility. Many have gone to the towns, secured an education and taken government or professional jobs.

Perhaps the closest OBC ally

of the Dalits in Uttar Pradesh are the Yadavs, the cattle herdsmen, although they are regarded by some specialists, such as the sociologist Ranji Kothari, as a Backward, rather than a lower Other Backward Caste. The difference is crucial.

Mulayam Singh Yadav, the SP leader, is the state's chief minister who has to walk a slippery tightrope to keep his minority coalition in power with the support of the few Congress and Janata Dal members of Uttar Pradesh's assembly.

But the Yadavs, who are also landowners, have clashed not only once with Dalits. Since the BSP victory in November, Dalits in many villages in the state have put up statues of their great hero, Bhim Rao Ambedkar, an Untouchable contemporary of

Gandhi who went abroad to become a distinguished lawyer, and fought for his fellow rights. Dr Ambedkar eventually rejected Hinduism to become a Buddhist.

In the village of Fatehullapur some local Yadavs complained that the land on which the statue was placed one night belonged to them. But Dalits claimed that they had also used it for tethering cattle and storing cow dung. It turned out to be common land, but the incident shows that many clashes originate in land disputes.

The late Dr Ambedkar has recently been the cause of

much more violent clashes in his native Maharashtra state.

Acutely aware of the need to placate Dalits, Maharashtra's powerful chief minister, Sharad Pawar, finally decided to implement a unanimous decision of the state assembly 16 years ago to name the Marathwada University after Dr Ambedkar. Violent upper-caste rioting in 1978 blocked the change.

On this occasion, 11 people were killed and several Dalit villages were burned. But the decision went through.

The BJP is deeply threatened by the alliance of

pluralist concept of caste, and the hierarchical — the Brahminical concept of a society which says: "I, not you, will define what you are."

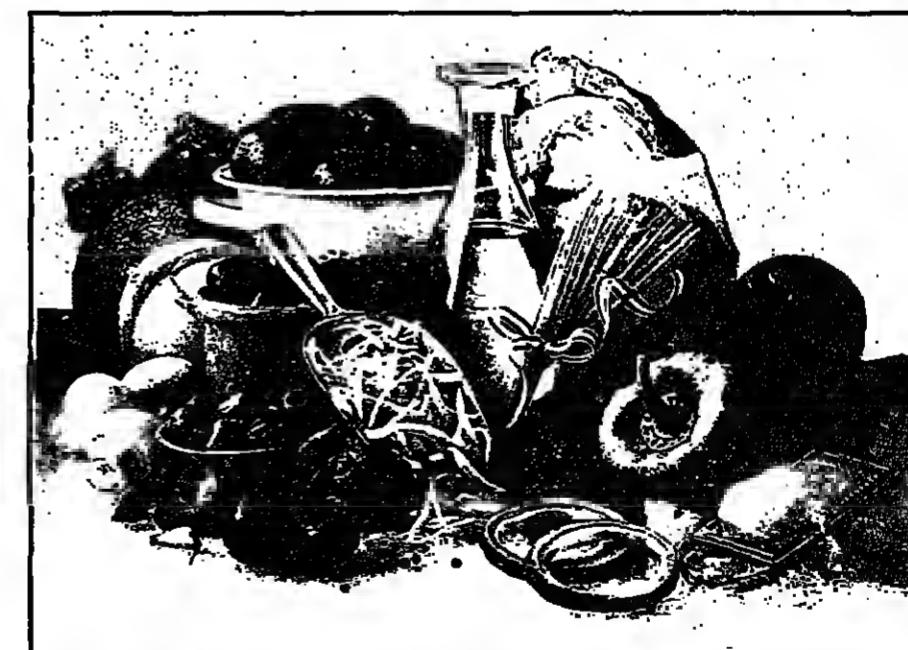
"But now those at the bottom are saying: 'We're going to do it.' It's the struggle of the toiling classes who were left out of the state and the market."

But, said Mr. Kothari, "Caste is always going to be stronger than an Indian identity... It gets transformed in the process of democratic politics, but you can't beat it."

The Guardian

New Look... New Style...  
New Atmosphere...

## Same Great Taste



*Alfredo*  
Restaurant  
AFTER REMODELING

MECCA STREET TEL. 821705

### King returns after Umra

(Continued from page 1)

King had no scheduled meeting with the Saudi monarch before he left for Umra, did not hide their disappointment.

"The attitude by the Saudis was definitely negative and not conducive to reconciliation," said a senior official.

"When interests of states are at risk, top state officials should rise above personal disputes," he added.

Western diplomats here concur with the disappointed officials. Analysts describe the Saudi decision as "counterproductive."

New agencies quoted Saudi diplomats as saying that while they had been told by Jordanian officials that there was no scheduled meeting between the two monarchs, "the royal court only informed us that the King wanted to perform umra," a senior Saudi diplomat, who refused to be identified, was quoted as saying by the AP. "There was no request for any high-level meetings."

A source close to the palace said there was no attempt by the Saudis to make any high-level contact with the King or

any member of his delegation.

"We are very disappointed," said the source. "The King was reaching out in reconciliation but King Fahd did not respond."

Although neither Jordan nor Saudi Arabia officially confirmed a reconciliation meeting, official sources had privately said that the two kings were to meet Tuesday for the first time since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis in 1990.

Relations between the two kingdoms soured after Iraq invaded Kuwait in Aug. 1990 when Jordan refused to join Saudi-based U.S.-led multinational forces that drove Iraq out of Kuwait.

Jordan, at the time, declared that while it condemned Iraq's takeover of its smaller neighbour Kuwait it felt that the problem had to be contained within Arab ranks.

King Hussein conducted a shuttle diplomacy between Iraq and Egypt immediately after the invasion, trying to withhold an Arab League condemnation of Iraq with Iraqi leadership promises that he was ready to withdraw from Kuwait.

His attempts to contain the

problem within Arab ranks, however, failed when the Arab League voted to condemn Iraq despite earlier promises to withhold the decision.

Saudi Arabia, enraged by the Jordanian position, responded by cutting off much-needed economic aid to Jordan and discontinued its fuel supplies to the country.

Relations suffered a serious setback and diplomatic missions between the two countries have operated with minimal staff since that time.

Officials here hoped that a meeting between the two monarchs would have turned a new page in bilateral relations.

"The Saudis had told us that the King was welcome to perform the Umra but that there was no scheduled meeting with King Fahd," a senior official said.

"Yet we were hopeful that this meeting would be arranged by the time King Hussein arrived in Saudi Arabia," the senior official added.

Analysts believed that King Fahd's decision to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Yemeni leader Ali Abdullah Saleh was an "encouraging" sign that the Saudi leadership would also move to normalise relations with Jordan.

Other analysts, however,

disagree and say that there were no high expectations of reconciliation at this time and that things will just have to "take their own pace."

### Hebron settlers are confident

(Continued from page 1)

ment of Kiryat Arba adjacent to Hebron.

Her husband Jamiil said settlers had thrown stones at their house six or seven times since the massacre.

"They have been attacking us for the past 20 years. I do not think that they will ever stop," he said.

Arab Hebron simmer, residents curse the PLO for exploring ways to continue the peace talks almost as much as they curse Israel.

A brief attempt to lift the curfew for two hours Monday morning ended with clashes between teenagers converging on the six Jewish houses and the soldiers guarding them.

Between 1,000 and 1,500 soldiers are now protecting the settlers.

The day ended with two Palestinians dead from army gunfire and four wounded. The death toll since the massacre is eight.

Oded Ben Ami, spokesman for Prime Minister Rabin on security matters, said the curfew in Hebron is indefinite. Elsewhere in the occupied territories the last four curfews were lifted Tuesday.

The residents defy the curfew when the occasion is important enough. One such occasion was a wake for the two men killed Monday, shot after they threw rocks at an army jeep.

tute potential sources of violence.

Banning settlers from carrying arms outside settlements.

Reopening the settlements issue which was to be discussed only two years from now in the PLO-Israel negotiations.

settlers, they said.

A PLO negotiator told Reuters the organisation is sticking to its demands resulting from the Hebron massacre, which are:

International protection throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip with a focus on areas where clashes between Israelis and Palestinians are likely to happen, such as Hebron.

Dismantling of some Jewish

settlements which consti-

# One in ten Americans rely on charities to eat

CHICAGO (R) — One in 10 Americans, or an estimated 26 million people, rely on charitable food agencies to eat, many of them families driven into the ranks of the hungry by joblessness, a study by the largest U.S. food bank said Wednesday.

Second Harvest, which distributes thousands of tonnes of donated food and groceries annually, said nearly half its hungry clients are children, many from households where the chief breadwinner has lost a skilled job and is unable to find another.

"This study reveals a whole new realm of hungry people," said Christine Vladimiroff, president of Second Harvest. "(It) breaks the stereotypical images of the homeless as those who are (the) hungry."

More than two thirds of the households using charitable

food outlets had no adult working. A majority of them jobless for more than three months, said the study, funded by Kraft General Foods.

The study by a marketing research firm received responses from 11,822 agencies, including food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and other emergency feeding programmes over an 18-month period.

Second Harvest, a network of 185 food banks that supplies 41,587 charitable agencies, said it was the most comprehensive study ever done on such programmes.

The demand for donated food is growing, with some agencies having to turn away hungry clients and reduce the size of food aid packages to stretch supplies. Second Harvest projected food demand at 120.5 million pounds (54.2 million kilogramme) in 1993, a 16

per cent increase from the year before.

While an estimated one in nine Americans used food stamps, less than half of those who come to emergency food programmes receive the government food vouchers.

The study found that less than one in five recipients of food aid were homeless, and only eight per cent could be considered transients.

The makeup of charitable clients was skewed toward children, senior citizens and African-Americans, with a higher percentage seeking food from the agencies than their proportion of the population as a whole.

Children under age 17 accounted for 43 per cent of those receiving emergency food aid, although they represent 26 per cent of the population.

# Britain goes on job offensive ahead of Detroit summit

LONDON (R) — Britain is going to the Group of Seven (G-7) jobs summit in Detroit next week convinced that its deregulated labour market holds the solution to the developed world's unemployment problem.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke told a news conference Tuesday that other countries were coming round to Britain's way of thinking.

"The fact is, other Europeans are readily understanding the importance of having flexible labour markets," Mr. Clarke said at a news conference. "Our missionary work is paying off."

U.S. President Bill Clinton has invited the other G-7 countries — Canada, Japan, Germany, France, Italy and Britain — to Detroit on March 14 and 15 to discuss ways of bringing down unemployment.

Some 7.8 per cent of the workforce was unemployed in the 24 developed countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development at the end of 1993.

Britain has managed to bring down its unemployment total by 205,000 since January 1993 to 2.79 million, or to 9.9 per cent from 10.6 per cent of the workforce. The government

claims that a newly flexible labour market allowed the rate to start falling very early after the end of the 1990-92 recession.

"The reason we're going (to Detroit) and taking it so seriously is we hope to build on the tide of opinion which we think is slowly moving in our direction," Mr. Clarke said, presenting a summit policy paper, "the U.K. Approach."

Mr. Clarke said Britain's approach was based on three principles:

— Solid macroeconomic policies, with the aims of low inflation and sound public finances.

— Free trade, vital for world

economics to flourish.

— Structural reforms, particularly in the labour market, to ensure labour flexibility and encourage investment in training, and measures to encourage small and medium-sized firms.

Since 1979, Britain has enacted a series of trade union reforms and amended employment protection legislation to ensure flexibility of wages and work conditions. Mr. Clarke denied these policies had undermined workers' rights and endangered the welfare state.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MARCH 10, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation  
GENERAL TENDENCIES: Difficult aspects are in effect early in the day, so use caution in all endeavours at this time. Don't force issues with others who differ in their point of view, with you. Hear them out.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study every angle of your financial affairs and set up a sensible plan for the days ahead. Think of loved ones, especially the children.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Enjoy the company of old friends and make new ones who can help to make your life richer. Be wide open to new opportunities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Show your finest talents at the tasks you are doing and get excellent benefits from it. Don't spend money faster than it comes in.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be with good friends and relieve tensions you have been under for a long time. Be careful not to exploit friends or you will lose them.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Plan more time for home improvements and bring more happiness there. Study a plan well before you put it in operation for your success.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) New situations arise that could help you advance since you understand them well. You learn a good deal you had not known before this time.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MARCH 11, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation  
GENERAL TENDENCIES: The New Moon in Pisces trines Jupiter and conjuncts the Sun making it a time to apply current and up-to-date methods to whatever you have in mind and get excellent results. Rely on your own judgement.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Handle money matters wisely and they are soon behind you. Come to a better understanding with a loved one. Talk less and listen more, what is said.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Situations arise so that you know what your exact position is with partners, so try to please them more. You can take it in stride.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan some time for improving relations with fellow associates and at work more efficiently. Moderation is the keynote now.

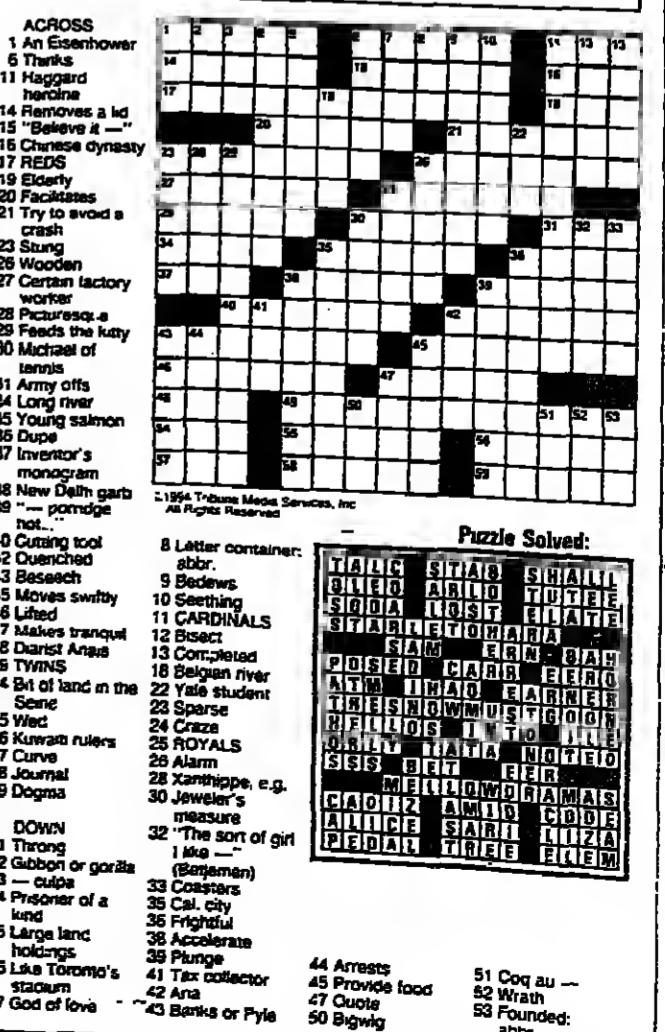
MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Relieve worry and tension now with some outdoor recreations. Be with the right kind of friends. Have greater rapport with kin.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Investigate a new enterprise that could be fine for you. Expansion should be uppermost in your mind in both your business and personal life.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get out of the doldrums you are in by being more active. A new friend can be relied upon for help now. Avoid one with a jealous streak.

## THE Daily Crossword

by Janet R. Bender

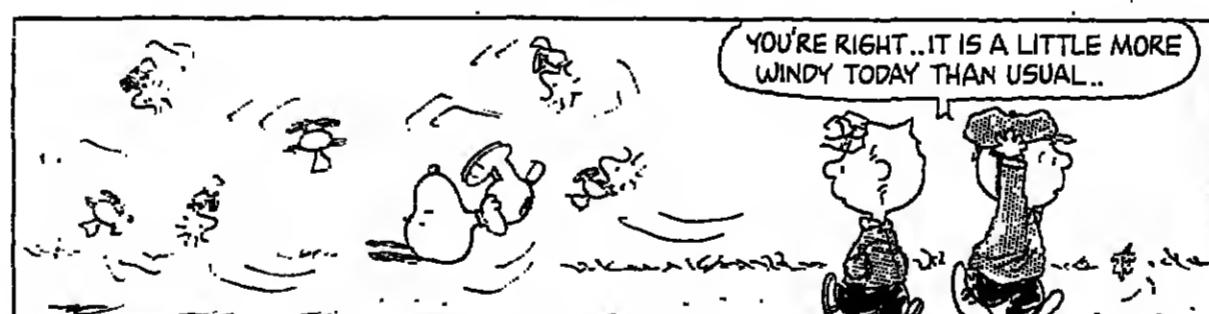


Puzzle Solved:

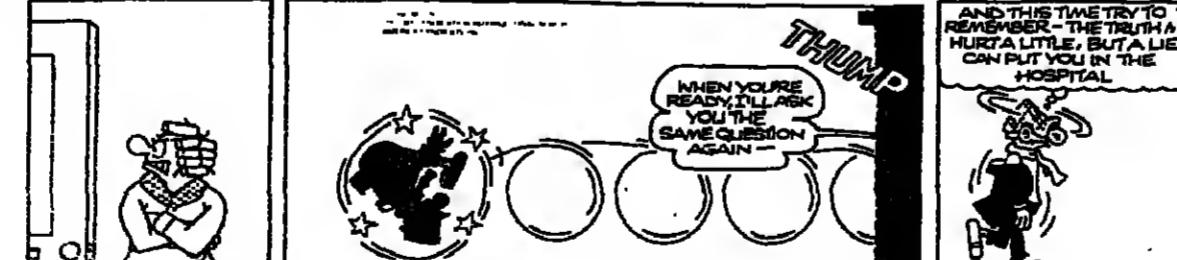
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Jordan Times Tel. 667171

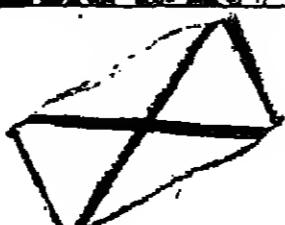
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



THE BETTER HALF By Glasberg



JUMBLE THAT SCRABBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

VAROS

LYKIS

CORRAN

AREPPA

A-SPER

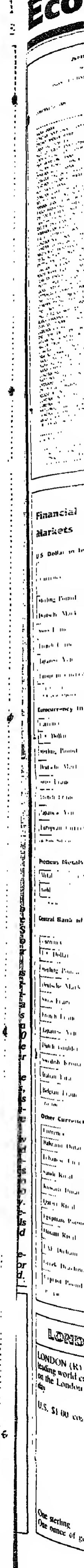
ANSWER



(Answers tomorrow)  
The only thing the detective was interested in — JUST THE "FAX"

Jumbles: NOISY FAINT EXANT JAUNTY

Answer: The only thing the detective was interested in — JUST THE "FAX"





## U.S. reports progress towards Muslim-Croat peace in Bosnia

ZAGREB (R) — The United States said Wednesday "enormous progress" had been made in negotiations to establish a Bosnian federation of Muslims and Croats linked to Croatia.

Peace efforts for Bosnia moved into high gear after U.S. peace brokers, building on a preliminary Croat-Muslim peace pact reached in Washington 10 days ago, told Bosnian Serbs to join their rivals or sink into "the black hole in Europe."

"In my mind, we have made an enormous amount of progress," U.S. special envoy Charles Redman said in Zagreb. He had talks with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman Tuesday.

Mr. Redman said negotiations in Vienna to implement the agreement, focusing on the constitution and boundaries of ethnically-defined cantons within the federation, were going well with no serious setbacks expected.

Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Grunic, who also met Mr. Redman, said the talks could be wrapped up by the end of the week.

"Things are moving so fast that you cannot take a snapshot at any moment and get a full read on the progress so far," a U.S. diplomat told

Reuters Wednesday.

Mr. Redman cautioned that the agreement could not bring full-fledged peace in Bosnia without the participation of the Bosnian Serbs, now holding 70 per cent of the republic.

In Belgrade, Mr. Redman tried to draw Serb leaders into a U.S.-brokered accord that provides for Croats and Muslims to form a binational entity of semi-autonomous cantons in Bosnia and then join them to Croatia in a loose confederation.

But while Balkan diplomacy made big strides, a Spanish plane in a NATO task force enforcing a U.N. no-fly zone over Bosnia was hit by ground fire over Croatia. Four passengers were slightly injured.

A NATO spokesman said the plane had to make an emergency landing at Rijeka Airport on Croatia's northern Adriatic coast.

The Croatian government said the plane was struck by one of two small anti-aircraft rockets fired from the Krajina enclave occupied by separatist Serbs.

The enclave skirts the government-controlled coast. Hours after the midday incident, Krajina Serbs shelled the town of Gospic on the government side of a U.N. ceasefire line for three hours, but no one was injured, Croatian Radio said.

## South Africa rightists may bite election bullet

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Black and white rightists prepared to bite the bullet and decide whether to take a key step in participate in South Africa's all-race elections.

Right-wing sources said General Constand Viljoen, leader of the autonomy-seeking Afrikaner People's Front (AVF), was ready to submit a list of election candidates, but first wanted to see whether his allies in the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party submitted their list.

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) had set a 4:30 p.m. (1430 GMT) deadline for registered parties to submit provisional lists of candidates for the April 26-30 elections, which many right-wingers are threatening to boycott.

Gen. Viljoen said on the telephone Wednesday no decision had yet been taken and if one was made to submit a list, he would not personally present it to the IEC.

Inkatha said it was preparing a tentative list and a decision on whether to submit it would be made at a special sitting of the party's Central Committee in the KwaZulu capital Umlazi.

Asked whether the list would be submitted to the IEC before the deadline, Inkatha spokesman Ed Tilet said: "I can't say. There is a possibility."

A senior white conservative,

who refused to be identified said IEC head Judge Johann Kriegler had called the right-wing bluff by sticking to the 4:30 p.m. deadline.

Justice Kriegler has called the bluff of both Inkatha and the far right," said the conservative, commenting on past successes by rightists in the autonomy-seeking Freedom Alliance in making elastic earlier constitutional deadlines.

The IEC said parties could meet the deadline by registering just one name. They would then have a week to submit full lists.

But even if rightists submit their participation in the election is conditional on the success of foreign mediation to break the constitutional deadlock between the pro-federalists on the one side and the ANC and the government on the other. The form of mediation is still being negotiated.

Right-wingers, demanding a white homeland or Volkstaat, have split into pro- and anti-election camps since Saturday's rejection by the self-proclaimed Afrikaner Assembly of Gen. Viljoen's registration of the Freedom Front.

AVF General Tienie Groenewald said Wednesday the organisation's committee of generals was fully behind Gen. Viljoen.

## British minister faces calls for resignation

LONDON (R) — Britain's minister for open government Wednesday vigorously defended telling a parliamentary committee that it was acceptable for ministers to lie in parliament in extreme circumstances.

William Waldegrave, 47, stirred up a political hornet's nest Tuesday with a statement that plunged the battered government of Prime Minister John Major into fresh controversy over the questions of integrity and judgement in politics.

Opposition politicians said Mr. Waldegrave's position was now untenable and called on Mr. Major to distance himself from the remarks and sack the minister.

As the storm grew about his remarks in the Treasury and Civil Service Committee, Mr. Waldegrave told BBC Radio Wednesday "a tremendous bogus story had been invented" by the media and opposition politicians. "This is a completely mad situation," he said of the controversy.

The Sun newspaper said "he should go" while the Times said it hoped his remarks were no more than a foolish slip: "Otherwise they represented a serious assault upon one of the most basic principles of parliamentary democracy."

Mr. Waldegrave said he had been referring in committee to exceptional cases in history when Labour Chancellors of the Exchequer (Finance Ministers) James Callaghan and Sir Stafford Cripps had said things which were wrong to defend the pound.

An aristocrat, with an elite education at Eton School and Oxford University, Mr. Waldegrave told the committee: "In exceptional cases it is necessary to say something that is untrue to the House of Commons. The House of Commons understands that and has always accepted that."

He added: "Much of government activity is much more like playing poker than playing chess. You don't put all your cards up at one time."

Labour MP Giles Radice, a member of the committee, said: "Frankly, I was amazed. I do not think it right that ministers should justify misleading the House."

"Questions of procedure make it absolutely clear that ministers should not mislead the House whatever circumstances are and when they do mislead the House they should resign."

Mr. Waldegrave, who has a reputation for having impeccable manners and a fine mind, has been under pressure for his role in Britain's arms-for-Iraq affair and the relaxation of arms sales rules, currently under investigation by a senior judge.

Conservatives rallied to support Mr. Waldegrave who has led Mr. Major's drive for openness in government. Dragging Britain's MI5 domestic security service and its M16 foreign intelligence agency out of the shadows by making their activities public.

But Serb guns opened up again early Wednesday, targeting Otočac north of Gospić, the radio said. It gave no details of damage for casualties.

In Belgrade, Mr. Redman tried to draw Serb leaders into a U.S.-brokered accord that provides for Croats and Muslims to form a binational entity of semi-autonomous cantons in Bosnia and then join them to Croatia in a loose confederation.

The Croat-Muslim agreement, signed in Washington a week ago, marked Washington's direct entry into the search for peace in Bosnia after Bosnia was hit by ground fire over Croatia. Four passengers were slightly injured.

Mr. Redman described the U.S.-sponsored Muslim-Croat accord as the first phase in efforts for an overall settlement. Drawing the Serbs into the process was the second stage.

After meeting Nikola Koljević, a senior aide of Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadžić, Mr. Redman declared: "We... are agreed that we are all going to stay very heavily involved, very active in this process."

Mr. Koljević held out scant prospect of the Serbs joining the confederation — they have vowed never again to live together with Muslims.

Most of Bosnia's front lines were reported calm Wednesday as ceasefires held between Serbs and Muslims in Sarajevo and between Muslims and Croats elsewhere.

The French Foreign Ministry said Wednesday, France is to send an additional 800 soldiers to reinforce U.N. peacekeeping forces temporarily to Sarajevo but will not increase its permanent troop presence in former Yugoslavia.

"Given the urgency of contributing to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 900, France has decided to send rapidly a reinforcement battalion in Sarajevo," ministry spokesman Richard Duque told reporters.

The short-term move was intended to help the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) bridge a redeployment of peacekeepers from Croatia to Bosnia to consolidate a fragile ceasefire following NATO's ultimatum to the Bosnian Serbs to withdraw or hand over their heavy artillery around Sarajevo.

In Moscow, a top Russian official indicated Wednesday that the Russian government is withholding full endorsement of a plan to form a Bosnian Federation of Muslims and Croats linked to Croatia.

## S. African train crash toll hits 64

DURBAN, South Africa (R) — An injured victim of South Africa's worst train disaster in nearly three decades died in hospital, raising the death toll to 64, police said Wednesday.

At least 370 people were injured when the Durban-bound electric train packed with black commuters jumped the tracks on a sharp curve Tuesday.

A board of inquiry opened Wednesday. "They are meeting first thing in the morning to start the investigation," said spokesman Mike Aszefovitz of the Spoornet Railway Corporation.

The IEC said parties could meet the deadline by registering just one name. They would then have a week to submit full lists.

But even if rightists submit their participation in the election is conditional on the success of foreign mediation to break the constitutional deadlock between the pro-federalists on the one side and the ANC and the government on the other. The form of mediation is still being negotiated.

Right-wingers, demanding a white homeland or Volkstaat, have split into pro- and anti-election camps since Saturday's rejection by the self-proclaimed Afrikaner Assembly of Gen. Viljoen's registration of the Freedom Front.

AVF General Tienie Groenewald said Wednesday the organisation's committee of generals was fully behind Gen. Viljoen.

All the passengers left Kenya. "Saudia manager in Kenya Rafiq Qassem told Reuters: "We are waiting to hear now whether the (Sandis)

## Yeltsin snubs Nixon

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin Wednesday refused to see former U.S. President Richard Nixon, who earlier met the Russian leader's opponents.

"Let them know that Russia is a great country and you just cannot play about with her like that," Mr. Yeltsin told reporters, clearly offended by Mr. Nixon's meeting Monday with former Russian Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi.

Mr. Nixon Monday became the first senior public figure to visit Mr. Rutskoi.

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu called for a day of mourning.

"Given all the bloodletting to which the people of Natal have been exposed, we call for a national day of mourning for those who have died, not only in the train disaster, but also in the violence," he said.

About 14,000 people have died since 1990 in political violence and monitoring groups say the toll in Natal province alone was almost 2,000 last year.

Black political organisations, vying for support ahead of South Africa's first all-race elections in April, suggested the tragedy may not have been an accident.

The Inkatha Freedom Party of Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi said sabotage could have caused the crash.

## Passengers released from hijacked Saudi airliner fly to Ethiopia

NAIROBI (R) — More than 130 passengers from a Saudi airliner hijacked to Nairobi by Ethiopian deportees left Wednesday for the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, airline officials said.

The passengers, released from the Saudi Airbus hours before troops stormed the plane at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta Airport late Tuesday, flew to Addis Ababa on an African Airlines plane, in the next few days as part of the inquiry.

plane can leave Nairobi later today."

The Airbus with 138 passengers was hijacked on a flight from Jeddah in Saudi Arabia to Addis Ababa by an Ethiopian man and two women among 130 Ethiopians and Somalis being deported from the kingdom.

Crack Kenyan troops shot and wounded one of the hijackers after he was lured out of the plane and stormed aboard and overpowered a female accomplice to end the nearly 20-hour hijacking, freeing the captain and co-pilot unharmed.

Kenyan officials had said Tuesday all the crew of the Airbus were Saudi nationals.

Mr. Qassem said it was up to Kenyan authorities whether Captain would be allowed to speak to journalists about the hijacking.

A third hijacker left the plane earlier Tuesday disguised as a passenger but was arrested, Kenyan officials said.

The Australian High Commission in Nairobi identified the captain of the hijacked plane as Australian John Webster and said he was resting at a Nairobi hotel Wednesday but seemed fine.

Kenyan officials had said Tuesday all the crew of the Airbus were Saudi nationals.

Mr. Qassem said it was up to Kenyan authorities whether Captain would be allowed to speak to journalists about the hijacking.

Airport officials said it was a routine exercise by an army division.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Germany stays on top of World Cup poll

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Germany remained on top of the sprint soccer poll for the 10th consecutive week, organisers of the poll said Tuesday. Germany earned 33 of a possible 37 first-place votes for a total of 359 points in the weekly ranking of the top 10 national teams as voted on by a panel of international soccer journalists. Brazil, which received one first-place vote, followed with 334 points. The Netherlands remained in third place, with 276 points, while Italy, with two first-place votes, held on to fourth with 248 points. Argentina, with one first-place vote, was fifth with 193 points. Rounding out the top 10 were Colombia, 186 points; Spain, 131; Belgium, 92; Norway, 51, and Cameroon, 49. Mexico, with 47 points, just missed a spot in the top 10.

### Thieves steal Olympic gold medal

BOLZANO, Italy (R) — Thieves broke into Olympic luger champion Gerda Weissensteiner's house and stole the gold medal she won at the Lillehammer Olympics while she was attending her brother's funeral Tuesday. "Sadly we have to confirm this is true. Thieves broke in and took the medal plus a camera and some cash during the funeral," a police spokesman said. Weissensteiner's joy at winning gold in the women's singles for Italy in Lillehammer last month turned to sorrow at the weekend when her 20-year-old brother Daniel was killed in a motorcycling accident.

### Fancied Barton Bank to miss Gold Cup

LONDON (R) — Barton Bank, second favourite for next week's Cheltenham Gold Cup steeplechase, will miss the race. Trainer David Nicholson said Wednesday: "Barton Bank has broken a blood vessel very badly this morning during routine work and will not run in the Gold Cup." Bartoo Bank scored a thrilling victory in the valuable King George VI chase at Kempton in December and had been a firm Cheltenham fancy at 5-1. Jodami, last year's Gold Cup winner, has hardened in the betting from 11-8 against to 11-10 on. French-trained The Fellow is the new second favourite at 7-1. The Gold Cup is the highlight of the traditional three-day Cheltenham Jump Racing Festival which opens next Tuesday.

### Ferrari to return to sportscar racing

TOULON, France (R) — Ferrari is to return to international sportscar racing, competing in this year's Le Mans 24 hours for the first time since 1973. Among their drivers will be a nephew of King Juan Carlos of Spain. Two factory-prepared Ferrari models, entered by the official Ferrari Club Italia, will first run in the Jarama four-hour race in Spain April 10 before competing at Le Mans and in other European GT series races. One car will be crewed by Italians Gianbattista Busi and Fabio Mancini, the other by Spaniards Tomas Saldana and Prince Alfonso D'Orleans, nephew of his country's king. News of the Ferrari return emerged at a race meeting in France Monday.

### Papin set to return to Marseille

MARSEILLE, France (R) — French and AC Milan striker Jean-Pierre Papin is likely to rejoin European champions Marseille soon, Marseille officials said Wednesday. The officials said Papin, 30, had one year to run on his contract with Milan but had agreed to leave the Italian club early.

### GOREN BRIDGE

With OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH Young Models Services, Inc.  
PICK THE RIGHT SUIT Both vulnerable. South deals:  
NORTH: ♠ A ♦ 9 ♣ Q 5  
A 7 3 2 ♠ K 6 5  
♦ A J 10 9 8  
WEST: ♠ K 10 8 4 3 ♦ 8 5 2  
A 9 7 ♦ K 9 2  
K 8 4 ♠ Q 9 6 5  
♦ K 6 3  
SOUTH: ♠ A Q 2 ♦ K 10 6 4  
A 10 4 ♠ A J 10  
♦ Q 8 2  
The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass  
3 NT Pass Pass  
Opening lead: Four of ♠  
When you have to develop tricks, logic tells you that you should first tackle the suit which will yield the most. If you've been playing the game for any length of time, however, experience will have taught you that other factors have to be considered.  
With eight points and a good five-card minor, there's a lot to be said for a jump to three no trump with the North hand. Instead, North set

for an invitational raise and South, despite a mere 16 points, elected to accept because of good intermediates and the fact that any lead was likely to be to North's advantage.

West started a spade and declarer captured East's jack with the queen. It might seem correct to try to set up the club, but declarer could not do so without West. West was the danger hand whose entries had to be attacked first. If West held the king of clubs, that card could be neutralized via a finesse. The threat to the contract was that East had the monarch and West the ace of hearts.

In that event, the contract could still be brought home, if West's entry was eliminated immediately. At trick two, therefore, declarer led a heart to the jack and, when that held, persevered with the queen. West could do no better than take the ace and revert to spades. South ducked one round, then won the ace. With six tricks now available, declarer ran the eight of clubs to East's king. Good technique paid a small dividend because East was out of spades. No matter what the defenders did declarer could not be stopped from collecting 10 tricks.

A taxpaying service specialist from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service will be at the American Embassy in Amman on March 30 to April 7 to assist U.S. taxpayers.

A special tax seminar will be conducted on Thursday March 31, and Sunday April 3, at 8:30 a.m. in the United States Information Service auditorium at the embassy. Anyone who is interested will be welcome to attend. No reservation is necessary.

Individual assistance will be provided by appointment on April 4 to 6. Each taxpayer is advised to have a copy of his or her last filed return and to have all papers well organized and scheduled to the extent possible when appearing for an appointment. Appointments may be made by calling 820-101, extension 2062.

Income tax forms and information booklets are now available in the consular section of the embassy.

## Pippen scores 39 points, helps Bulls beat Hawks

CHICAGO (R) — Scottie Pippen collected 39 points, 10 assists and nine steals as the Chicago Bulls ended a five-game losing streak with a 116-95 victory over the Atlanta Hawks Tuesday.

The loss ended a six-game winning streak for Atlanta.

B.J. Armstrong scored 20 points, including 4-of-4 from three-point range, and Tony Kukoc added 15 points and five rebounds as the Bulls moved 3-½ games behind Atlanta in the Central Division.

In Cleveland, John Williams had 18 points and 10 rebounds and Terrell Brandon also scored 18 to power the Cleveland Cavaliers to a franchise record-tying 11th straight win with a 103-82 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

The Cavaliers have not lost since dropping a 102-95 decision to the New York Knicks Feb. 17th.

Wayman Tisdale and Mitch Richmond each had 16 points for the Kings, who extended their losing streak to five games.

In Charlotte, Alonzo Mourning returned to the Charlotte lineup after missing the last 15 games and collected

24 points and 15 rebounds as the Hornets ended an eight-game losing streak with a 97-89 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

Mourning, who had been out with a leg injury, scored eight points in the fourth quarter to help the Hornets rally to the win.

At Utah, Karl Malone scored 30 points and pulled down 11 rebounds as the Utah Jazz downed the Minnesota Timberwolves 100-86 to tie a club record with their 10th straight victory.

Jay Humphries added 16 points and Tom Chambers had 15 for the Jazz, who are 12-0 lifetime at home against Minnesota and 20-3 overall against the Timberwolves.

Chris Smith scored 21 for the Timberwolves.

In Orlando, Shaquille O'Neal scored 29 points and grabbed 16 rebounds to lift the Orlando Magic to a 95-88 victory over the Denver Nuggets.

Denver led 84-83 with 3:30 left but Orlando's Anfernee Hardaway scored a three-point play to put the Magic ahead to stay.

After an O'Neal layup, Hardaway hit a jumper and Larry Krystkowiak scored from inside to complete a 9-0

run and give Orlando a 92-84 advantage with 1:41 remaining.

Dennis Scott had 17 points and seven rebounds for Orlando.

In Dallas, Dominique Wilkins hit two free throws with just under two minutes left to snap a 102-102 tie and lift the Los Angeles Clippers to a 116-110 triumph over the Dallas Mavericks.

Ron Harper had 36 points and Wilkins added 34 to the Clippers, who won for only the eighth time in 29 road games this season.

Jim Jackson had 31 points for the Mavericks.

In San Antonio, J.R. Reid scored 16 of his season-high 24 points in the first half and David Robinson added 21 points, 12 rebounds and five blocks to power the San Antonio Spurs to a 115-99 rout over the Houston Rockets.

The Spurs have won three straight and 17 of their last 20.

In Seattle, Shawn Kemp had 24 points and 14 rebounds and Kendall Gill had 23 points and 10 assists to lead the Seattle SuperSonics to their sixth straight win with a 113-98 rout of the Golden State Warriors.

## Prost returns to test with McLaren

ESTORIL, Portugal (R) —

Alain Prost, four times world champion, climbed back into a Formula One car for the first time since announcing his retirement five months ago when he drove the new McLaren Peugeot Tuesday.

The 38-year-old Frenchman, wearing a plain red driving suit with no personal or commercial identification, did two brief installation laps and, after a short break, a further four laps before pulling into the pits.

On Prost's instructions, McLaren had booked the circuit where he had announced his retirement from Formula One last September as a private testing venue.

Apart from half a dozen team trucks, which were surrounded by makeshift high fences and several patrolling security guards, there was only a group of about 30 journalists to witness Prost's return.

The grandstand opposite the pits was also blocked off and all members of the media were kept at a long distance from the Frenchman who won 30 of his record 51 Grand Prix wins with McLaren earlier in his career.

His unofficial lap times were unimpressive. His quickest lap in the morning was believed to be one minute 16.6 seconds, far slower than former Williams teammate Damon Hill's pole time of 1:11.49 at last year's Portuguese Grand Prix.

## Madrid to have new coach in few weeks

MADRID (R) — Real Madrid, who sacked coach Benito Floro Monday, will have a new manager within a few weeks so that he can be involved in reshaping the team for next season, club Chairman Ramon Mendoza has said.

"The naming of Vicente Del Bosque as coach is provisional, until the end of the league season. I am confident that within a few weeks we will have signed the coach who will manage the team next season," Mendoza told reporters after a visit to the club training ground to talk to players.

"We have got to strengthen the squad and the ideal thing would be that the new coach should handle the signings so that he does not find himself managing a team he has not helped to structure," he said.

The Madrid board decided unanimously Monday to sack Floro, who joined the club at the start of the 1992-93 season, after the team had suffered a shock defeat by first division stragglers Lerida Sunday.

His demise was the climax of a stormy season for Spain's most famous club. They have staggered from crisis to crisis while still managing to cling to third place in the league.

Floro's job had looked at risk several times during the season and a home defeat to Paris Saint Germain in the European Cup Winners' Cup

last Thursday followed by the 2-1 loss in Lerida were the final nails in his coffin.

Del Bosque is a former player and long-time member of the club's technical staff. He supervised his first training session Tuesday.

Mendoza refused to be drawn on who the long-term replacement would be but said contacts had begun. He said the man chosen must "speak Spanish, know Spanish football, know the club and be a name."

Names mentioned in the sports press over the season include Francisco Maturana, formerly with Real Valladolid and now Colombian national coach, Artur Jorge of Paris Saint Germain, Argentine Jorge Valdano, a former Madrid player who is now coach of teneife, and German Jupp Heynckes, coach of Athletic Bilbao.

Floro, who came to Madrid after lifting Albacete from the third division to the first in four seasons, was warmly applauded by a large crowd of fans at the training ground when he said goodbye to the team.

Madrid players reacted with surprise to Floro's departure.

Captain Manuel Sanchis said the team had not expected it so late in the season despite almost weekly speculation in the media.

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Cinema Tel.: 634144 Cinema Tel.: 699238 Cinema Tel.: 677420 Cinema Tel.: 618274 - 618275 Cinema Tel.: 675571 Cinema Tel.: 625155	PLAZA CONCORD CONCORD '1' CONCORD '2' Dennis the Menace	AMMOUN THEATRE Opening Soon A political comedy Forbidden x Forbidden	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre presents a play entitled: Al Ilm Nuron	Ahlan THEATRE Nabil and Hisham Theatre presents Ahlan Arab Summit Conference (play)
PHILADELPHIA Jean-Claude Van Damme HARD TARGET Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Laughter, Playing, Seriousness and Love Arabic Shows: 12:30, 3, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	A popular political comedy Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalai, Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali in addition to other comedians Every night at 8:15 Tickets are sold all day Coming soon: The next play	daily at 9:15 p.m. Theatre is closed Sundays, Monday and Tuesdays

# UNHRC assails Iran, Iraq, Cuba and anti-Semitism

GENEVA (Agencies) — The U.N. Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) on Wednesday criticised violations in Iran, Iraq, Cuba and former Yugoslavia and condemned anti-Semitism for the first time in the history of the United Nations.

China escaped criticism for the fourth straight year despite its continued suppression of the pro-democracy movement and a recent upsurge in arrests of dissidents.

And an attempt by Pakistan to bring the situation in the disputed Indian province of Kashmir under international scrutiny failed because of lack of support even from fellow Islamic states.

Pakistan's draft was the most contentious of all the resolutions at the annual six-week session. It was introduced by a fierce attack on India by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on a visit to Geneva last month.

A Pakistani delegate to the commission told the meeting that Iran, which signed a wide-ranging trade agreement with India earlier this week, had made a high-level appeal to the Pakistani government that the resolution should be dropped.

An appeal by Iranian Ambassador Siros Nasser was backed by China and more than a dozen other delegations at the commission. Delegates burst into applause when the Pakistani delegate announced his country "had decided not to ask for action," on the resolution.

In Islamabad, Foreign Minister Assef Ahmad Ali told local reporters that Pakistan found it "difficult to ignore"

China's and Iran's appeal.

The resolution would have condemned "gross and consistent violations of the human rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

Iran's Nasser cited "the readiness of the government of India to facilitate a visit by a group of ambassadors from Muslim countries to Jammu and Kashmir."

The outcome was a diplomatic triumph for India and a blow for Ms. Bhutto, who had compared the situation in Kashmir to the "darkest days of the holocaust."

The 53-nation commission asked a special U.N. investigator to examine "contemporary forms of racism, any form of discrimination against blacks, Arabs and Muslims, racial discrimination, xenophobia, neophobia, anti-Semitism and related intolerance."

It condemned the "massive violations of human rights, of the gravest nature, for which the government of Iraq is responsible, resulting in an all pervasive order of repression and oppression which is sustained by broad-based discrimination and widespread terror."

The commission voted by 34-1 votes to renew the investigation into Iraq by former Dutch Foreign Minister Max van der Stoel. Sudan voted against and there were 18 abstentions.

It condemned the "massive violations of human rights, of the gravest nature, for which the government of Iraq is responsible, resulting in an all pervasive order of repression and oppression which is sustained by broad-based discrimination and widespread terror."

The commission voted by 22-11 votes on a Western-backed proposal to continue scrutiny of Iran. There were 19 abstentions.

In a report to the commission, U.N. investigator Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, said the pattern of executions, torture and repression in the Islamic republic continued unabated.

Russia and other former communist allies joined the West in voting to renew criticism of Cuba for its suppression of political and civil liberties. The resolution passed by 24-9 votes, with 20 abstentions.

Cuba's representative Jose Perez Novoa immediately said it would disregard the resolution.



DEFIANCE: Palestinian children continue throwing stones as an Israeli soldier takes aim at them in the Jabaliya refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip.

## Rabbani loyalists claim control of northern town

KABUL (AP) — President Burhanuddin Rabbani's army said Wednesday it recaptured the northern provincial capital of Kunduz in a fierce two-day battle involving thousands of troops.

Mr. Rabbani's forces control most of Kabul, the main battleground in a brutal civil war that involves about 10 separate factions. They also are battling the same groups in key provincial centres such as Kunduz, 250 kilometres to the north.

Mr. Rabbani's head of national security, Fahim, told a news conference that the president's men retook Kunduz late Tuesday after ousting soldiers loyal to warlord Rashid Dostum.

The claim could not be independently verified, though several sources have reported heavy fighting in Kunduz.

"Psychologically our victory in Kunduz is important," said Mr. Fahim, who like many Afghans uses only one name.

Meanwhile, Kabul was relatively calm Wednesday after coming under a heavy artillery attack the previous two days that killed at least 18 and wounded more than 100.

Gen. Dostum and his ally, Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, are encamped on the city's outskirts and have been pounding the city with rockets since they launched their assault Jan. 1.

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The announcement from the group also claimed responsibility for Monday's attack on three passenger trains in Assiut province in southern Egypt.

Twelve Egyptian travellers were wounded when the trains' coaches were raked by gunfire some 320 kilometres south of Cairo.

A second statement, faxed to a Western news agency in Cairo, claimed responsibility for attacks that took the lives of Egyptian policemen Monday and Tuesday.

Both statements said the attacks were to avenge the Hebron massacre.

The group said the suspension of activities in Cairo through next Monday was related to "internal matters," which it did not disclose.

The Islamic Group has angered many Muslims here with attacks that have taken Egyptians lives and hurt their livelihoods. Incidents during the holiday period could further erode public support.

Mr. Gross scheduled a hearing for the three in state supreme court on March 29 when they are to be arraigned.

Mr. Baz's lawyer, S. Michael Musa-Obregon, complained to the court that he has not received Mr. Baz's allegedly incriminating videotaped statements to police, although the contents have leaked to the news media.

In a felony complaint, Mr. Baz was charged with 15 counts of attempted murder — one for each student in the van — but because Mr. Halberstam later died, the grand jury will likely vote to include one count of murder.

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